

"Success comprises in itself the seeds of its own decline and sport is not spared by this law." – Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics

The beauty of surprise

The first week of the Beijing Olympics saw a string of upsets. Stars fell, and medalists came out of nowhere. The world map of modern sport was redrawn overnight.



Michael Phelps, US swimming star, competed in the Men's 200m Freestyle Final held at the National Aquatics Center on Tuesday, Day 4 of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. Phelps finished in first place in a time of 1:42.96, winning the gold medal and setting a new world record.

Photo by CFP



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Countries see historic breakthroughs

Golden boy gives Indian sport a hope

By Han Manman

Abhinav Bindra, 25, etched his name into Indian sporting history when he won the gold in the 10m Air Rifle Monday, ending decades of Olympic misery for India, the world's second most populous nation and a perennial underachiever at the Games.

A perfect show

Bindra, who entered the event ranked 17th in the world, finished with a high score of 700.5 points, barely ahead of Zhu (699.7), who won in Athens four years ago and was eager for a second Olympic gold.

"This time was much harder than Athens," Zhu said in a media conference after the competition. "I was hungrier for the gold. For quite a long time, I felt melancholy and had complex feelings."

In fact, Zhu did not make any mistakes during the competition. He

took silver only because Bindra made a perfect show.

Bindra's first shot at the final, a 10.7, saw him move to third place. By the time he was preparing to shoot his fourth, the Indian had risen to second.

A 10.6 on his seventh attempt earned Bindra the lead and in the deciding shot he got a 10.8, way ahead of the 10.5 by Zhu and 9.7 by Finland.

Domestic response

Indian television news channels were giddy in their coverage, showing footage of Bindra receiving his medal and the raising of the Indian flag on a continuous loop.

"Boom-boom Bindra's fired up a nation's imagination and given Indian sport a desperately needed shot in the arm,"

The Times of India said.

The Indian sports

experts said it is not easy for an Indian to win an Olympic medal, let alone gold, because there is no sporting culture in the country. They hope Bindra's victory will pave the way.

"I sincerely hope this win will change the face of Olympic sport in India," Bindra told Indian media. "Olympic sport is not a priority in India. I hope now it will receive more attention."

A private rich man

Despite India's excitement and his mother's noting that he was now the country's most eligible bachelor, Bindra, as an intensely private man, is struggling to come to terms with his newfound status as India's Golden Boy. In his first blog entry after winning the gold, Bindra wrote, "It has all still not sunk in."

"I ran away from all the media and official attention" after doing my bit, and then chose to celebrate my remarkable achievement with a quiet

dinner in the company of some friends, he wrote.

"Honestly enough, it really has not changed me. I am still the same Bindra who just a day ago was hanging around alone in my room in the Olympic village," Bindra wrote.

Success, claims Bindra, has cost him a lot of sweat and blood. "For more than a decade now, my life has been all about my sport. In fact, I do not have a life beyond the confines of the 10m range. I have had a range built in my own home to cut down any possibility of distraction and to be able to practice my sport whenever the fancy strikes me. It all paid off, didn't it?"

Bindra was born to a wealthy Indian family. Indian newspapers said the shooter's father A. S. Bindra, a wealthy businessman, built an international standard range at home for his son's training. His father is planning to build a five-star hotel to be run by his business graduate son.

Bindra's excellent performance on Monday wins Indian a historical gold.

Photo by Bruce Wei



S Korean wins country's 1st gold in swimming

By Jackie Zhang

Park Taehwan, 18, won the first Olympic swimming gold for South Korea. He started to swim at age 5 when a doctor suggested it to treat asthma. He never imagined that prescription would lead to Olympic gold.

Tuesday, Park won a silver medal in the Men's 200m Freestyle and broke the Asian record. Last Sunday, he won the gold in the Men's 400m Freestyle, fulfilling the expectations Korea placed on him.

"I felt nervous at the com-

petition. But I'm really happy I could win the gold medal," Park said after the 400m competition. He said he felt honored to win the gold medal and prove that Asian people are not weak in swimming.

"Some people were surprised to see an Asian swimmer win swimming medals. In the past, athletes from the US, Australia and other countries dominated in swimming. But I won a gold medal in the World Championship last year. This time, I won another in the Olympics. Zhang Lin from China won the

silver in the 400m," Park told Xinhua in an interview.

At 7 years old, Park began his competitive swimming career, winning several medals in junior competitions.

When Park was young, his father lost his job. In fifth grade, his mother got breast cancer. He saved all his pin money to buy medicine for her, and decided to work hard and win more so that one day, he could buy them a new house. When he won the gold medal last Sunday, he said he would

share his achievements and happiness with his parents.

This evening, Park will take part in the preliminary contest for the Men's 1,500m Freestyle. In the 2006 Asian Games in Doha, Park swam the 1,500m Freestyle in 14'55"03, which made him the first Asian to beat 15 minutes. Although he had put much more attention on preparing for the 400m, he said he would strive for a better result in the 1,500m.

The men's 1,500m freestyle final will be held next Monday morning at the Water Cube.

—Shattered dreams—

Judo legend's run comes to an end

By Milo Lee

For Japanese judoka Ryoko Tani, August 9 was a disappointing Saturday. The 33-year-old judo legend's dream of winning three straight Olympic gold medals was shattered by Romania's Alina Dumitru. Tani had to settle for a bronze by defeating Russian judoka Lyudmila Bogdanova.

After her winning Ippon, Ryoko Tani took a bow to the audience and walked off the tatami, leaving a lonely silhouette to the cheering crowd. She failed to bring her son Yoshiaki the gold as she wished.

Tani was most favored to win the Women's 48kg Judo before the Games opened, and many Japanese people in the audience cried when she lost.

On Sunday, Tani attended a news conference in Beijing. "Now is not the time for me to set a new goal. I'll resume training, and if I can brush up my skills enough to pursue a gold medal, only then will I set a new goal," she told the *Mainichi Daily News*.

Beijing marked Tani's fifth appearance at an Olympics. In 1992, Tani appeared in the Barcelona Olympiad and won a silver medal. After that, she brought home 10 48kg-category gold medals, almost one for each year. She won seven world titles from 1993 to 2007 and had an 84-match winning streak until 1996. In Japan, Tani has become a national idol at 1.46 meters tall, not only for her success but for her invincible persistence.

A farewell smile on badminton court

By Jin Zhu

Defending men's singles champion Taufik Hidayat was dumped out of the event, after losing to Malaysian veteran Wong Choong Hann in his first match on Monday. Although it could be Hidayat's last Olympics, a farewell smile still graced his face.

Hidayat, a recognized badminton genius, was not in his best form. Missing shots and slipping on the court were the last pictures he presented to the world. He was beaten by Wong 19-21, 16-21 in 44 minutes.

After losing the game, Taufik admitted he did not play well, while Wong was at 100 percent. However, he denied that the dengue fever which hit him several weeks ago had affected his fitness. In an interview with Xinhua, Hidayat said he thought he was getting old and hoped junior players could catch up and replace him.

Badminton competitions in Olympic Games frequently have upsets, especially in the men's singles matches. Four years ago, Lin Dan, a Chinese badminton player ranked first in the world, was also beaten in the first match in Athens.

Hidayat ended his Olympics journey one day after his 27th birthday.

Britain's new swimming champ a hometown hero

By Annie Wei

When 19-year-old Rebecca Adlington prepared for media interviews after her gold in the Women's 400m Freestyle, one British journalist asked her to introduce herself since few people knew her.

Her achievement shot around the globe on media wires within seconds, especially in the UK. After all, no British woman swimmer has won the gold since Anita Lonsbrough in 1960.

What made England proud was that there were two British girls in the top three of an Olympic final. With Joanne Jackson's bronze, they both stood on the podium.

Adlington's win was an upset, beating US favorite Katie Hoff on the final stretch.

Her result in the final was not even as fast as the semi-final the night before. The other competitors were also not at their best.

Adlington said she did not panic when she was a little bit behind. She just tried to catch Hoff from the US team in the last 50 meters.

Hard-training and designer shoes

Adlington started swimming at 7 years old in the local swimming pool. According to an interview *The Times* conducted with her and her parents back home, at first, Adlington went swimming just to follow her older sisters.

She said she did it for the social side of things, but she enjoyed it more and more because it was fun to swim and win.

However, glory did not come easily. Since 13, she had to devote long hours to training. When preparing for the Games, Adlington was training to swim 7,000 - 8,000 meters per two-hour session from 6-8 am.

Then she would go running or circuit training for an hour before returning to the pool at 5 pm for another two-hour training session.

The article joked that Adlington revealed that designer shoes propelled her to victory and she wanted to have an Audi.

Her parents promised her some designer shoes if she won, including Jimmy Choo and Christian Louboutin.

She was quoted to have had 30 pairs of shoes but wanted to have more, "a pair of shoes for each outfit."

Parents arrived after the gold

After Adlington won

the gold, her parents decided to fly in for her next event, the 800m Freestyle.

She was Britain's favorite athlete for the 800m Freestyle, ranked No 1 in the world unlike in the 400m before she got the gold.

The Times reported that Adlington's parents almost missed all her events. The parents paid 1,100 pounds earlier this year to see their daughter compete. However, they were informed via email that there were no tickets available.

As the British cycling team is also strong, four of the six seats the Chinese organizing committee allocated to Great Britain were required by the British Cycling's technical team, the article said.

The parents finally got two cheap seats, but worried they could not see their girl win a medal.

However, after Adlington's victory, Fina, swimming's international governing body, agreed to supply the Adlingtons with front-row seats.

Hometown pool named for her

Adlington's victory brought excitement to Mansfield.

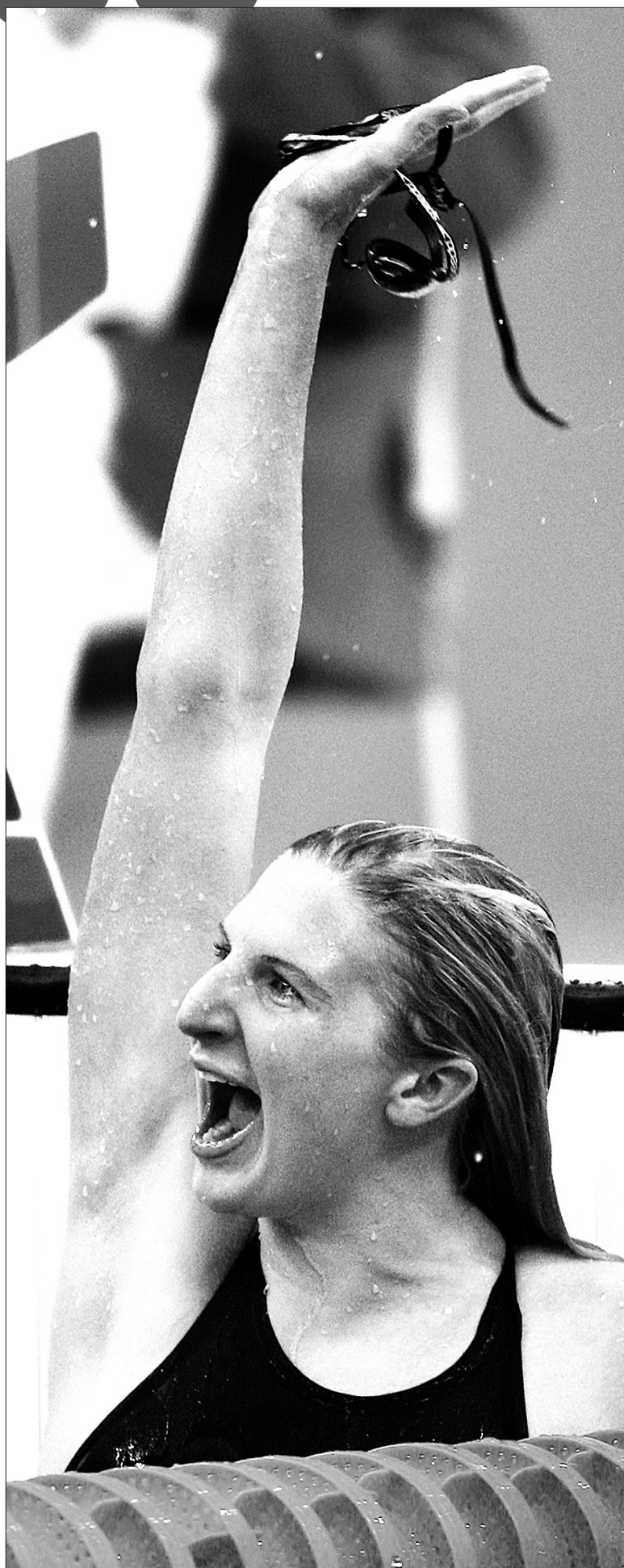
The swimming pools where she first learned will be renamed in her honor, *The Times* reported.

The Sherwood baths in Mansfield Woodhouse will reopen next September as the Rebecca Adlington Swimming Centre.

The Mansfield District Council's executive mayor announced a proposal to bestow the freedom of Mansfield on the gold medalist, the greatest accolade the district can award an individual or group. He was quoted in the article as saying Rebecca was a fantastic ambassador for Mansfield both in and out of the pool and he hopes this is the first of many gold medals.

"The renamed Sherwood baths will be a permanent reminder of Rebecca's Olympic success, and we hope it can also serve as an inspiration to other young swimmers to strive to match her incredible achievements," the mayor said.

Adlington's parents promised her designer shoes if she could win.



Rebecca Adlington surprised all on Monday when she finished the Women's 400m Freestyle Final in first place.

CFP Photo

Legendary shooter couple targets records

By Zhang Dongya

Czech sharpshooter Katerina Emmons won the first gold medal in the Olympics at the Women's 10m Air Rifle on the opening day, with a new record. Her husband Matt Emmons, US shooter and another Olympic champion, watched the whole match. When victory arrived, he ran out to hug and kiss her.

The Emmons couple is considered the Agassi and Graf of shooting.

The 24-year-old marks-woman began shooting 10 years ago after seven years as a swimmer. She has a good coach - her father, also a champion shooter. She won her first major international medal at the World Championships in 2002 when she was 18.

For the couple, the 2004 Athens Olympics was a dramatic meet, both for the Games and their encounter. Her husband fired at the wrong target and missed the medal at the Games. She met him that disappointing night, and they have been together ever since. They married last year and became shooting partners.

At Athens, Katerina Emmons won the bronze medal in the Women's 10m Air Rifle. Later, she took a silver medal at the 2006 World Championships and the gold at the 2007 European Championship. After winning the Good Luck Beijing International Sports Shooting Federation (ISSF) World Cup earlier this year, she came to Beijing with high hopes.

For Emmons, after another competition in the Women's 50m Rifle Three Position Thursday, her main role will be to support Matt in competitions on Friday and Sunday.

Asked whether she will eventually change her citizenship and compete for the US, Emmons said she would like to shoot for the Czech Republic as long as possible.

Elnur Mammadli, the ippon champion

By Wang Yu

It took Azerbaijan's judoka Elnur Mammadli less than 9 minutes to claim the Olympic championship in Beijing. His five games were finished in 5 minutes and four of them ended with an ippon, an automatic victory.

Mammadli beat the teenage world champion Wang Kichun of Korea in 13 seconds to win the Men's 73kg category on Monday. It was Azerbaijan's first Olympic gold medal in judo and fourth gold medal since the country first appeared at the Games in 1996.

The Korean was left stunned on the floor as he tried to figure out what happened.

It was also sweet revenge for Mammadli, as he lost his world championship to Wang at the finals last year in Rio.

Editor: Huang Daoheng Designer: Zhao Yan

BEIJING TODAY

Stars

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David Kostecky of the Czech Republic kisses his rifle after winning a gold medal in the Men's Trap final.

CFP Photos



Norway's Melissa Wiik kisses the boot of a teammate after scoring a goal against New Zealand during first round women's soccer match in Qinhuangdao.

Cheers, tears and kisses



By Huang Daohen

There are always big surprises in any world competition. Cheers, tears and kisses greeted all athletes during the first week of the Olympic Games.

Getty Image Photo

Brazilian Rogerio Clementino kisses his horse "Nilo" during a training session in Hong Kong.



Maria Valentina Vezzali of Italy kisses her mother Enrica after winning the Women's Fencing Individual Foil gold medal match over Nam Hyunhee of South Korea.



Coach sharpshooter Katerina Emmons kisses her husband Matt Emmons, American shooter, after winning the first gold medal in the Games at Women's 10m Air Rifle. Photo by the Beijing Youth Daily



Defending Olympic champion Nurcan Taylan of Turkey kisses the barbell goodbye after losing the women's 48kg weightlifting competition.

What if Liu Xiang loses?

By Huang Daohen

Are we prepared? What if Liu Xiang becomes the next Du Li? Online discussion is heating up after the 26-year-old Du fell short last Saturday in her attempt to become China's first gold medalist of the games.

A favorite and repeat world champion, Du said she was not ready for the pressure at home.

What about Liu Xiang then? It hardly needs saying that Liu is under a bit of pressure. Of all the events at these Olympic Games, none will define sporting success for the home nation more than the Men's 110-m Hurdles. Liu will take the first run next Monday.

For many, the defending champion has a world to win and everything to lose, with the Olympic dreams of 1.3 billion people hanging on his shoulders. Even losing his world record earlier this season to Cuba's Dayron Robles will hardly lift the burden of expectation heaped on this 25-year-old.

Indeed, according to Britain's Colin Jackson, the man who preceded Liu as world record holder, it can only add weight.

"It's the last thing he will have wanted," Jackson said during a recent interview. "Having the world record gives you confidence. It means you can go on the line and think to yourself, 'You know what, if I run my very best, I will be the champion.'"

Unfortunately, when you are carrying the hopes of a whole nation, you cannot really get away from it. The hurdles themselves can be a mental as well as physical barrier.

Now, if Liu wins, he can do anything he wants for the rest of his days. But what if he loses, will things become very, very different? Will all his past accomplishments become worthless?

The answer was said best long ago by Pierre de Coubertin, "The most important thing is not to win, but to participate."

Now that the Olympics has started, it is time to put aside the medals, the champions and honors and enjoy it.

Expert: Non-medalists still Chinese heroes

The Chinese, who used to be intolerant about their athletes' failure during previous Games have learned to give more compassion, Yang Ming, a senior sports writer for Xinhua News Agency, said.

Yang, who has reported on the Olympic Games since 1984, said he observed the process of the Chinese people's psychological views change regarding the results of sporting events over the past 25 years.

"In the 1980s, the Chinese regarded sports as a symbol to show their power in the world. The 2000 Sydney Olympic Games was like a transition. People talked about the sports more and didn't relate them

to patriotism or nationalism," Yang said.

The Olympic spirit reflects not only patriotism, but also the spirit of humanity to surpass itself. An open and confident country needs to allow its athletes to have the right to fail.

The Chinese people are excited about the 2008 Olympic Games, and at the same time, they are also going to enjoy the party and have lots of fun, Yang said.

Public response

A hypothetical Internet survey on China Youth Daily Web site asked about how people would react if Liu

Xiang did not win the Gold Medal. Over 70 percent of the respondents said they would calmly face his loss.

We need to develop the confidence, rationalities, openness and tolerance matching our identities as citizens in a fast-growing emerging country. From this aspect, to be a decent host is more meaningful and cheerful than to collect more gold medals.

Of course we hope that he can win the gold medal, and we would be very happy about that. But if he tried his best and doesn't get the

gold, that's also understandable and acceptable.

— Chen Jun, economy analyst

It (the race) will be very difficult. No matter how Liu Xiang performs, he has already become the hero of the Chinese people.

— Yang Ruai, tourist from the eastern Zhejiang Province

It does not matter! You cannot always win. Records are constantly broken. So, even if he loses, it is normal and I will always be supportive and understanding of him.

— Fan Haoyue, student

Nobody agrees on why swimming records keep tumbling

(Reuters) — Unless the Chinese accidentally used a faulty tape measure and built a 49-meter pool, there is no simple explanation for the glut of swimming world records set at the Beijing Olympics this week.

Records never last long in swimming but with 16 already wiped from the books in four days and plenty more expected to follow, the Water Cube is looking like the fabled river of gold.

Plenty of theories have been put forward, crediting superior training methods, better diets, the latest advancements in suit technology, custom-made pools that eliminate waves and reduce turbulence and even dolphins for teaching swimmers better ways to kick their legs underwater.

Few people agree on what is the single most important factor but the general consensus is that it is partly technological, partly psychological.

"You have to have the barrier breakers," US coach Eddie Reese, said. "I remember the four-minute mile being broken by the time the year was out, five or six people had done it."

The most popular theory for the flood of records in Beijing is the introduction of Speedo's new LZR suit, which was designed with help from the US space agency NASA.

The suit keeps swimmers in a corset-like grip and allows them to maintain the best body position in the water for longer and reduce drag.

Independent scientists and even Speedo executives have been unable to provide any real evidence the suits do help but with more than 50 records falling to swimmers wearing them this year alone, almost everyone thinks it is no coincidence.

"I think the suit has changed things a little bit, but good people are great no matter what," US coach Jack Bauerle, said.

Pools have come a long way in the past decade with designers using every trick to help produce super-fast times.

The Beijing pool is 3 meters deep, 50 centimeters more than at the last Games in Athens, and unlike older style pools where there was a deep end and a shallow end, there is no variation in the water depth which reduces turbulence.

The water on the sides of the pool spills on to the deck and drains away rather than flowing back into the pool. The racing lanes, once ropes, are now designed to stop waves crashing from one lane to the next.

The water is maintained at a constant temperature and treated with filters that improve visibility and cut the taste, smell and red eyes from chlorine, while the starting blocks are designed to help the swimmers, angled to give them a flying start.

"This is a very fast pool," Bob Bowman, the personal coach of Michael Phelps, said.

"We also have the suits, which are helping. I think that the combination of things has excited people.

"They're swimming more aggressively, they're taking a few more risks than before but I think what's changed so dramatically is peoples' expectations."



Liu's performance in 2004 Athens won him national fame, but many worried whether he could breakthrough in Beijing.

CFP Photo



Beijing is really a fun city

Visiting Western revelers in Beijing can now breathe a sigh of relief. For one thing, it turns out the city air, however murky, does actually support human life – and even outdoor Olympic exertion. And Beijing, despite widely publicized concerns that it would be host to the “no-fun” Games, has turned out to be, well, kind of fun.

Originally, bar-owners reported that outdoor and rooftop seating was likely to be limited, as their al fresco tables were carted away and terraces threatened by shut-down unless appropriate registration steps were taken. It was predicted that a 2 am curfew would be imposed. All live music venues faced a slew of previously unenforced regulations that darkened many a bandstand – only temporarily, it turns out.

After the first Olympic weekend in Beijing, little evidence of killjoy regulation reared its ugly head. Susan Yan, the owner of Passby Bar, had formerly expected her roof garden to be shut down, along with those of all other bars and restaurants lining the pedestrian walkway and hipster hang-out Nanluoguxiang. Instead, “every-



Visitors cheer for the Games on Wangfujing Avenue.

thing was normal.” Moreover Greg Dover, a Canadian who manages Bar Blu on the Sanlitun bar street, had worried about early curfews, but says that instead, “We had a good weekend, with no problems... and yes, we stayed open past 2.”

Jim Boyce, a well-read blogger who commentates on Beijing's nightlife, argues the regulators simply needed to survive pre-game jitters. “These guys are over the initial hiccup, and they’ve realized the foreigners aren’t going to go crazy. So we’re fine.”

Several countries organized “Olympic houses” that act as home-bases for athletes and visiting compatriots, and some of these are open to the public as entertainment and exhibition outlets with nationally-oriented themes. The Swiss House offers chocolate sculpting and the Casa Italia hosts modern art.

Most of these country houses are accessible only to nationals but beyond them, nearly every venue in the city has reserved at least a part of its space for the public, so that any average Joe, whether his skin be black, white, chartreuse or periwinkle, can find a place in which to take part in the fun.

Once inside a venue or a party, the city's nightlife was definitely active and effervescent. But, one had to know where to go and the parties were contained and controlled, not spilling out into the streets as before. “It’s a more tame fun in Beijing, not wild and outrageous fun,” Boyce said. “Think of it as Harry Connick Jr. fun, not Chili Peppers fun.”

(Manuela Zoninsein, Newsweek)



The splendid opening last Friday.

CFP Photos

Voices of the world leaders

More than 80 state leaders and royals attended last Friday's Olympics opening and gave their impressions on the Games.

The Chinese Government and the people staged a spectacular and successful opening ceremony of Olympic Games to people from all over the world.

– **US president, George W. Bush**

It is great honor to attend the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games. I have great respect for the Chinese people's tremendous efforts and brilliant contribution to the Games. I believe firmly that August 8, 2008 symbolizes the great revival of China.

– **French president, Nicolas Sarkozy**

The opening ceremony was grandiose, in perfect order and with complete Chinese traditional odor. Meanwhile it also showed modern high technology and people around the world were stunned by the opening ceremony. As an Asian, I am proud of the successful fulfillment of the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics. I believe, the slogan, “One World, One Dream” will have



Lin Miaoke, 9, jumping in front of the National Stadium before the opening.

an important influence on Olympic causes in the future.

– **South Korean president, Lee Myung-bak**

The Olympic Games is a sports gathering of people from all over the world and it is a precious opportunity for countries of the world beyond borders to strengthen mutual understanding and trust as well.

– **Japanese premier, Yasuo Fukuda**
I believe that the Beijing Olympics' slogan, “One World, One Dream” proposed must come true. The Beijing Olympics brings joy to people all over the world, the

Sri Lankan people and I are happy about this. As an Asian, I am proud of this.

– **Sri Lankan president, Mahinda Rajapakse**

The organizing work and facilities of the Beijing Olympic Games completely show China's economic and technical efficiency and cultural charms. I believe the Beijing Olympic Games will be the most successful Olympic meeting in history.

– **Afghanistan president, Hamid Karzai**

China has set a new standard for Olympic Games. Seven years ago, few people could imagine that China could hold the most successful Olympic Games in history like it does now. Congratulations to the Chinese Government and the people for their remarkable organizing work, and I sincerely hope that the Beijing Olympic Games will go well and consummate successfully. And the achievement of the Beijing Olympics will encourage Rio de Janeiro to bid to be the host of the 2016 Olympic Games.

– **Brazil's president, Fernando Henrique Cardoso**

(By Venus Lee)

China money traders bet on 40 to 42 golds

(Reuters) – Olympics fever has spread to China's interbank money market, where traders are betting on the host country to take between 40 and 42 gold medals in this year's games, a jump from 32 golds in the 2004 games.

Those betting on China to win more than a certain number of golds “buy” contracts at that level. Traders bet on a ceiling for China's haul, “sell” just below that maximum. Contract prices move in increments of a quarter of a gold medal.

Contracts were bid at 40 and offered at 42 on Tuesday. Traders said it was unclear how much money was going into the market, but the relatively small bid-ask spread, down from 10 gold medals last week, suggested trade was fairly active.

Olympic athletes line up to test old Chinese remedies

(The Times) – To the Games hosts, it was the perfect chance to showcase treatments developed long before the Ancient Greeks met to compete in Olympia. So for the first time in Olympic history, the athletes' village is equipped with a clinic offering traditional Chinese medicine.

Reports suggest that the initiative is proving to be a success. Sui Ma, a practitioner at the clinic, told *The Times*, “We have had many athletes coming in. Some have come in with old traumas that perhaps haven't been recognized. Also, because it is a very strong competition, many people have new injuries.”

Ola Ronsen, the head doctor for the Norwegian team, said, “I talked to one of the Chinese practitioners before we arrived, mostly focusing on sleep disturbances and other types of imbalances. When he arrived, he went for a full check-up. The doctor discovered problems I didn't mention to him,” he said.

US gives Olympic Village “gold” for going green

(Reuters) – The US awarded the Beijing Olympic Village with its own gold medal on Wednesday, lauding its environmentally-friendly design and holding it up as a model for energy efficiency.

US Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson presented the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Gold Award to Chen Zhili, Mayor of the Olympic Village and Vice-Chairwoman of China's National People's Congress.

Paulson called the Village an example of US-China cooperation on energy and environmental issues, urging more work along those lines. The US Department of Energy provided technical assistance for the project.

“China's leaders know that the development of green buildings is a critical need and the Olympic Village can serve as a model for this development,” Paulson said.

New super suit breaking records

7

Keyword

By Wang Yu

Four months after Speedo launched its fourth generation of Fastskin swimsuit, LZR Racer, this February, the swimmers who wore the hydro-dynamically-advanced suit had broken world records 40 times before the Olympics. To date, most of the gold medalists who emerged from the Water Cube have also been Speedo athletes.

The so-called "magic suit" has built a reputation of helping the competitors swim faster since the first time it was worn by Ian Thorpe, the Australian world champion in Sydney 2000. Eight years later, more and more famous international swimmers are breaking contracts and switching to Speedo such as the Japanese breast-stroke winner Kosuke Kitajima, who had to seek special permission from the Japan Swimming Federation to dissolve her contract with Mizuno.

It took the company three years of research including input from NASA, tests on more than 100 fabrics and suit designs and body scans of more than 400 elite swimmers. The unique swimsuit, made of a lightweight, water repellent and fast-drying fabric, was developed to reduce drag and help stabilize the swimmer's body in a more streamlined shape.

Some reports have credited this suit with reducing



Photos by Ju Lin and Pan Fan

Comment

By Zhang Dongya
Many following suit

It is surprising to see so many world records broken in the men's 4X100 swimming event. No doubt, the Speedo swimwear made a great contribution.

However, I believe it is the person who wins, not advanced technology. Since some swimmers wore Speedo, others just cannot refuse to follow suit if they want to keep up. It is unfair to some extent.

Olympic swimmers' suits are often provided by their national teams, which are in turn sponsored by manufacturers. Nations sponsored by Speedo, then, are gaining an unfair advantage.

— Stansisi, netizen,
forum.xitek.com

Unrealistic expectations

It is a high-tech placebo effect, I think. Just like a swimmer in this new speedy swimwear said, "I will not feel confident to combat others if I think I'm not dressed in the fastest swimwear in the world." Some think that swimming is being severely damaged by this fashion placebo.

— Ayawawa, a Chinese net celebrity

A tight fit

Swimmers said it was not comfortable to put on the Speedo since it is very tight and form fitting. They resembled "merpeople," with their bodies crammed into corsets. But professional swimmers adjust quickly.

I don't think it will gain a lot of popularity in the general market since people will be so uncomfortable wearing it. Most people swim to stay healthy and fit, not for speed. Also, it is expensive for the general public, and even more for competitive swimmers, who must change swimsuits every 10th swim. In addition, it's not very attractive compared to the bikini.

— Frank Miao, editor of
Sanlian Weekly

Creative revolution

Just like the "lightest shoes" for runners and improved bicycles for cyclists, Speedo is a big technological revolution in the swimming field. To some degree, the Olympic arena is a stage for competing technologies. With technology progressing, it is common for high-tech elements to enter the sports field. And we cannot negate the fact

that athletes achieving their best in the Olympics has a lot to do with technology, just like all other scopes in the world.

— Professor Bao,
Beijing Sports University
Ability comes first

No matter how "magic" the swimming suit is, it is only a piece of sports equipment. Basically speaking, high achievement depends on the ability of the athlete. We cannot deny the role it plays in the swimming events, but we should not exaggerate its effect.

— Alex Xie, journalist of

Titan Sports Newspaper Approved for everyone

I cannot agree that this is "technological doping." The swimsuit has been recognized by the event's governing body, the International Swimming Federation (FINA). FINA has said there's no scientific proof that the Speedo gave swimmers any edge, so they will reject banning it. Also, any swimmer can have it if he or she wants, so it is not against the Olympic spirit of fair play.

— Shen Chen, assistant
engineer of Sanyo

swimming times by up to 2 percent, but Speedo said it is impossible to verify.

The LZR Racer is so tight that it can take a swimmer up to a half hour to pull it on correctly and comfortably. It is a little bit ironic that swimsuit design trends before the Fastskin were less important, but now it has become a fashion statement.

Does the world really need this high-tech equipment? There are different opinions about this wildly-accepted suit. The spirit of the Olympics is to surpass the limits of the human body and still play fair. But since Speedo's Fastskin made a splash in Sydney, those teams who can afford the suit may be ahead of other athletes even before the race begins.

There are many varied opinions on the new swimsuit. The Italian coach called it "technological cheating." Former Australian swimmer Shane Gould said sarcastically, "It is a performance-enhancing device." The US gold medalist Gary Hall Jr. described it as a pervasive performance-enhancing drug in the sport according to Star-Telegram.com.

But the fact is that everybody is wearing the fastest suit in the world, so the winning swimmer will still be the first one to touch the swimming pool wall. The LZR Racer can not make a short, fat guy into a champion like Michael Phelps, but it, supposedly, can help Olympians break records and that may be the reason why some do not like it.

There may be more world records broken by those who wear the "magic suit," but it still will never replace basic training.

Editor: He Jianwei Designer: Zhao Yan

BEIJING TODAY

Varied versions of opening ceremony create debate

By He Jianwei

Last Friday night, the Beijing National Stadium, known as the Bird's Nest, garnered world attention as the curtain rose on the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. The glorious and splendid opening ceremony of the Olympic Games which combined technology and originality left the world in awe.

Over the weekend, a series of photos of the opening ceremony posted on several popular Chinese BBS revealed sights that the Chinese audience did not see on television. The post said the pictures were taken by the National Broadcasting Company (NBC).

NBC's version of the opening ceremony became a netizen favorite. They downloaded the video and compared it with what they saw on television. They thought NBC's version gave more information to the television audience.

Actually, all the pictures were from Beijing Olympic Broadcasting (BOB), a cooperative joint venture in the role of the Official Broadcaster for the Olympics. Other television stations can edit the images in any way they choose, a nameless producer from China Central Television's (CCTV) Sports Center, said.

But NBC's version was recorded, edited and broadcast 12 hours later, so the program director had enough time to select the most attractive scenes for the audience.

Details on grand LED screen

With huge light-emitting diodes (LED) screens, eye-catching lighting systems and multimedia video shows, one of the characteristics of the Games' opening ceremony was its use of cutting-edge technology.

A gigantic LED screen, one of the biggest in the world, was installed at the center of the Bird's Nest. It looked like a scroll with traditional Chinese symbols penned on it and wash paintings, china, tea, the Great Wall and the Silk Road.

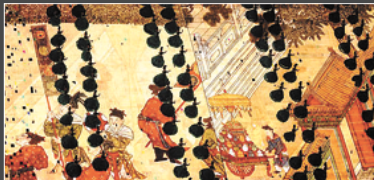
The LED screen was an important tool used to inform the spectators of the country's long and profound history. When netizens saw the NBC version, they found they missed some messages up on the screen.

In the first part of the performance, directors tried to express ancient China's four great inventions, namely the compass, gunpowder, papermaking and printing.

It also displayed the golden ages from Chinese history. For instance, when the performers held the paddles to tell the stories about sailing in Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), the LED screen showed the scientific achievements from that period, including the famous medical book, *Ben Cao Gang Mu*, a compendium of Chinese medicinal herbs, compiled by Li Shizhen.

On CCTV's live broadcast, the audience could not see these details.

In another scene, when the 2008 Tai Chi masters ran into the arena, a big dial plate containing Chinese Tian'gan and Dizhi, which is a way of counting years in Chinese calendar, appeared on the LED screen. It showed that in the Chinese calendar, time has neither beginning nor end. It is an eternal changing cycle. The directors of the opening ceremony put English words on the dial plate.



LED screen shows ancient China.



Kun Opera performing



Peach flowers representing ideal world.

The Chinese television live broadcast did not give a long-range, wide view of the stadium.

From the majestic to the marvelous

The presentation of printing, one of the four great inventions in ancient China, was a brilliant scene in the performance. NBC's anchor praised it as "unbelievable."

Most of the scenes from CCTV and NBC were almost identical, giving many long-range views to show the majesty and scope of the performances. But when the metal slugs turned into a sea of peach flowers, the audience only saw several performers' flowers in CCTV's close-up.

In NBC's version, it gave a long-range view that showed not only the performers holding the flowers, but also images of the peach flowers being projected on the LED screen.

"I didn't know why the director asked each performer to hold a bunch of peach flowers. It was not beautiful at all when I saw bunches of flowers. But when I saw NBC's version, I was surprised at its beauty and the ground looked like an imaginary and ideal world," Li Zhan posted on a forum at tianya.cn.

Peking Opera and Kun Opera no show

Although Chinese netizens praised NBC's version, they also showed their disappointment at the cancellation of the Peking and Kun opera performances.

"I don't know whether or not the NBC version we downloaded was the full version or not, but in this version, I think it was a great pity that the Peking and Kun Opera performances didn't appear," fengxueyequren posted on his Sina blog.

In the full version, a stage was carried out by a group of people and four other performers showed four opera puppets on the stage.

Before telling the stories of the five dynasties in ancient China, the directors arranged several pieces for a Kun Opera performance. Kun Opera boasts a 600-year history and is known as the mother of a hundred Chinese operas, because of its influence on other theater forms, including Peking Opera.

"With the graceful Kun Opera and other ancient melodies, it explained well the inner tranquility of the Chinese people," flyingbird posted on a forum at xinhuanet.com.

A netizen on the *New York Times* Web site posted, "NBC cut some of the segments, for example, the Peking Opera scene with the opera puppets. I hope they release a full DVD version, so we can see the whole show uninterrupted."



An Olympian in the family

9

Hayley Sage

girl next door on the international stage

"Eight is a lucky number," Teresa Sage, mother of British diver Hayley Sage, joked when she saw he country's team listed eighth.

Hayley Sage, who turned 22 two weeks ago in Beijing, finished her Olympic appearance in the Women's Diving Synchronized 3m Springboard on the second day of competitions.

Beijing is her first appearance at an Olympics. To have this chance, she had to succeed in the most difficult diving trials. Her success, however, has not changed her understated style. She remains forever the girl next door in her family's version of the story.

Hayley Sage was 10 when she first dived. It was a fateful day at the family's local swimming pool. The springboard on the opposite side of the pool caught her eye, and she decided to try it. That attempt would change the course of her life.

Her diving career has led her to participate in competitions both domestic and international. But despite all the events and all the victories, for Sage it remains the same as any part of her life.

"She seems not to have realized how good she is," her father Chris Sage said.

Her father said she considered quitting when she was a teenager. "She wanted to go out on Friday nights like her friends did," he said. "But she has to go to bed early for the next day's training." Her family and coach stressed the achievements she made, telling her "You are too

good to quit".

Once a chance hobby, Sage's honing of her craft has brought her to the platform of world diving. Still the introvert, she shuns the limelight. The media showers its attention on Thomas Daley, 14, her team mate. "She thinks [she's] lucky to avoid the attention," her father said.



Hayley Sage (middle) with her parents at the Water Cube.

By Zheng Lu

At this Monday's diving competition at the Water Cube, Beijing Today met up with two athletes' parents to learn the stories behind what took them to the Olympics.

partner Tandi Gerrard on the back, Teresa Sage said proudly, "I ironed the picture on it. Other parents in our team were jealous when they saw it."

In her profile, Sage said her prized possession was her family. Her father is a part-time diving coach at their local swimming pool and has attended many competitions as judge or referee. "I began to have interest in diving and to learn judging after Hayley became a diver," he said.

Sage's mother cares more about her daughter's emotional side. "We talk about girl's things," she said. Clad in her T-shirt with the picture of Sage and her

Nicholas and Samantha, Hayley's brother and sister, are solid members of her family's cheering squad. "I wouldn't be here if she wasn't my sister," Nicolas said.

Sage will have the chance to perform at the next Olympics in her motherland. "Maybe she will win a medal there. We do not care about the result so much, since diving for her is a hobby, not a job. We just hope she enjoys it," Sage's mother said.

David Boudia

natural sportsman's desire to excel

David Boudia, 19, and Thomas Finchum, 18, leading men of the US diving team, narrowly missed their shot at a medal in the Men's 10m Synchronized Platform final this Monday.

When this reporter saw Boudia's father Jim Boudia right after the game, he appeared nervous as his family waited outside the gate for their son. When he met reporters several days later, the smiles on his face had cleared away any of his tension.

And David Boudia's too.

"He felt frustrated at first, but we encouraged him and told him they had performed very consistently. He understood and admitted they did their best, and there was nothing to be sad about. David's mood picked back up," his father said.

Boudia's history in sport is a long tale. Able to run by two years old, his parents were quick to pick up on his active nature. "He loved jumping, he always jumped on tables, chairs and everywhere he could," his father said. He decided

to involve Boudia in as many sports as possible to give an outlet to that energy.

Before diving, Boudia may have become known to the world on the gymnastic court rather than the diving platform. He studied gymnastics for four years from age six, and would have been a gymnast were it not for a leg injury during training.

Boudia's interest in diving began when he went swimming with a friend at age 11. A free diving class got him onto the platform for the first time, but the coach was quick to spot a genius.

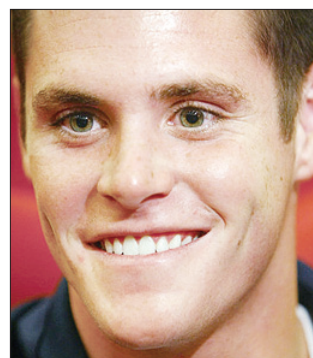
Even with his gifts, stepping onto the 10-meter platform was a scary experience. "It took him two years before he feel comfortable on the platform," his father said.

To conquer his fears, his father said Boudia used a human body statue to demonstrate to himself the actions and poses involved in diving. He drew each action on paper to help himself understand better.

His efforts won him a bronze medal at the 2008 FINA Diving World Cup Platform and set the new record in US platform history at the Olympics Trials last month.

Boudia will be a freshman business major the day after the Olympics end. "We will see whether he can manage both training and study. He will probably go for the 2012 Olympics. If he does not have enough energy for both, he may have to postpone his studies," his father said.

Now busy with training at the Olympic Village, Boudia is preparing for two more competitions next week. "He said he hoped to return to America a hero," his father said.



David Boudia

Photo provided by USA Diving

BEIJING TODAY

News

Weekly

The same warmth and cold throughout the globe

**Focus
Outlook
Business
Debate**

See Through the Appearance To Perceive the Essence
Hear all parties
Development is of overriding importance
Seek common ground while reserving differences

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Al Falcao, the king pin

By Wang Yu

Al Falcao is a Canadian Olympic pins collector famous for his collection of 35,000 different pins. He took part in the pin exchange event in Chaoyang Park, and it has been 20 years since he started to collect Olympic pins after the Calgary Olympics.

Everyone needs a hobby

Falcao was at the Montreal Olympics in 1976 but unaware of pins, let alone pin-trading. "I used to collect stamps before pins took over," the old man said. He has been at every Olympics since 1992 and is busy trading pins with collectors around the world.

"I have up to 35,000 pins and it took me 13 years," Falcao said. "Now, as a famous collector, I call the Olympic sponsors and they are very pleased to send me their pins." But the pin-collecting hobby did not originate in China.

"People's lives are busy and stressful. They need something to forget work and this hobby is very good for their health, that's why I do it." After his retirement from IBM in 1993, the company used Falcao's Web site as an example to show others what they could do after their retirement. "Retired people in North America usually have nothing to do. The working cycle suddenly stops and what happens next could be death," Falcao said.

"We should realize that



Al Falcao is the owner of 35,000 Olympic pins.

Photo by Wang Yu

retirement doesn't mean the end of your life but a beginning," he said.

Swapping with celebrities

Al Falcao has many celebrity fans such as Chelsea Clinton, who is also a good friend of his. While in Athens during the Olympics, the collector met numerous prominent Greek personalities including Dora Bakogianni, mayor of Athens. Prince Albert of Monaco has traded pins with Falcao.

"Many celebrities like pins

and they take part in the trading activities during the Olympic Games. Usually these people come to me, but I don't know who they are before they reveal their identities," Falcao said.

Falcao said there are principles while trading. Firstly, you must never be introduced until the trading is finished. Secondly, you must be fair and honest. Thirdly, if your buddies are not happy, you cannot force them to trade. And lastly, be prepared to sacrifice more than one pin to

get another.

Beijing is the eleventh Summer and Winter Olympics that the collector has attended. Falcao's primary objective is to add at least one particular pin to his collection. Who is offering the pin is not important, he said.

Pins pull people together

"Helen Wan (the Chinese lady who helped Falcao to come to China) is a pin designer and her company makes pins for Lenovo this time around. I first came in

contact with her in 2006 prior to the Torino Winter Olympics when she sent me some of her works and then we became good friends. So you see it is a relationship business and my objective is more than trading pins but to make friends," Falcao said.

As a famous collector, Falcao is different from others because he will never sell his collection, have exchange with people.

"Some collectors don't like me because I don't trade for money," the old man said seriously. "In Nagano, where the winter Olympics was held in 1998, Japanese people had never seen a pin before and they went crazy over them when they saw foreign people trading pins. I was so sorry to see a lot of collectors there making money, he said. Affluent Japanese would pay 1,500 dollars for a pin which was total garbage. People took advantage of others," the collector said.

Al Falcao is planning to donate his collection to Vancouver during the 2010 Winter Olympics. "Now the problem is space, I cannot keep the pins in my basement to let people see," he said.

The old man said that he will not stop collecting after the donation. "I got these pins from people and so I choose to give them back to make more people happy. That should be the point."

Ukrainian roadsters rally for the Olympics

By Annie Wei

An automobile team with three professional drivers sent by Galamedia, one of the biggest Internet portals in the Ukraine, arrived in Beijing Monday.

"There are many ways to come to Beijing to watch the Olympic Games," Joseph Lemire, chairman of Galamedia, said about the teams 10,000-kilometer trip from Kyiv, capital of the Ukraine.

People can come by train or plane, but they decided to come by car, Wang Yunpeng, China country manager of Galamedia, said.

Focusing on entertainment and sports coverage, the station has enthusiastically covered all the Ukrainian athletes' performances since the independence of the Ukraine in 1991.

Lemire and his staff have gone to the host each Olympics cities like Atlanta, Sydney, Salt Lake City, Athens and Italy for stories and experiences.

For the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Galamedia decided to send a three-member team - Joseph Lemire, Wang Yunpeng and Sergey Suhovsky - to drive the 10,000 kilometers from Kyiv to Beijing. All are very experienced drivers, and Suhovsky had experience driving through the Dakar Desert.

Three members started the

journey on July 31 and expected to arrive in Beijing last Friday.

However, the trip was not easy. All wanted to arrive in Beijing on the day of the opening ceremony day, and they tried to drive non-stop for eight days.

However, they had a few car accidents. One was particularly serious, and almost halted their trip.

When they drove to Samara, a city in Russia, the road conditions were really bad and there were no lights or road signs as the road was under construction. They hit something and the car started rolling over.

Wang's left arm was injured by broken windshield glass. He was sent to a local hospital by ambulance and they were delayed in Samara for two days. Their car was almost completely destroyed. With the help of their car partner back in the Ukraine, it was decided to use a taxi from city to city in Russia until a new car could be delivered.

Then an amazing thing happened. The cab driver was also inspired by their Olympic goal and decided to drive them the 5,000 kilometers from Samara to the boarder of Russia and China.

During the trip, they documented what happened on the



Joseph Lemire (seated front), Wang Yunpeng (seated near) and Sergey Suhovsky (standing) are three brave men driving through the Ukraine to Beijing.

Photo by Wang Yunpeng

road and broadcast their stories to Ukrainian listeners. In addition, they uploaded photos and stories to of Galaolympics.com and 5TeKu.com for netizens.

Lemire, the real estate and media investor, said the trip was a great adventure. They met so many interesting people, swam in Volga, the biggest river in Russia and Lake Baikal, the biggest lake in the world. They also learned much about dealing with difficulties,

like moving forward after an accident that almost killed them, exercising discipline in sleeping, eating and keeping awake during night time driving. They also took time each day to run up to 10 kilometers to stay in physical shape.

As it was Suhovsky's first trip to China and Beijing, he was amazed at how well built China's roads were, especially compared to the bumpy roads of Russia.

"I was scared by Chinese drivers though," he said, "Many trucks were driving without tail lights at night in Manzhouli, Heilongjiang Province."

Lemire said, "After 10 days of driving 10,000 kilometers, experiencing many obstacles, and even going through many security checks near Beijing, it was good to arrive in the capital city on August 11 just in time for breakfast and then off to enjoy the Beijing Olympics."

Games-appointed hospitals near you

By Annie Wei

Summer in Beijing is hot and humid. Some Olympic spectators and athletes' families were reportedly satisfied with Chinese hospitals when they got sick and were sent to see local doctors. *Beijing Today* sorted out some basic information for medical references during the Games.

For athletes

There is advanced and comprehensive medical equipment at the Olympic Village. If an athlete is sick, he will be taken care of by his team doctor and be provided any needed medical aid from the Games Services Department of the organizing committee.

Dai Jianping, vice director of the Games Services Department of the organizing committee, said the city has set up 157 medical stations, dispatched 191 ambulances and more than 3,000 medical volunteers to 31 competition venues, 45 independent training places and 10 non-competition venues to provide medical services.

Different hospitals specialize in different areas for specific Games-related staff members. The China-Japan Friendship Hospital offers services to athletes, coaches and judges, Peking Union Medical College caters to Olympic Committee officials and VIPs, Anzhen Hospital provides medical treatment to journalists. Other hospitals have sent on-site medical service teams to Olympic venues in exclusive Olympic zones.

For spectators

Each stadium has medical stations for spectators, including assistance any time from volunteers and professional medical workers. If a spectator gets sick suddenly, he will be sent to a nearby medical station. In addition, there are 52 hospitals around the venues especially



Media from around the world visited the Chinese-Japanese Friendship Hospital for their medical service to athletes. CFP Photo

open to spectators.

Any spectator can get medical service and ambulance service free as long as he or she holds a valid event ticket for the day.

If the situation gets serious and the spectator needs to be further examined in a hospital, the medical station will send him or her to the hospital free.

But spectators need to cover the cost personally after registering at the hospital.

For average tourists and local residents

Tourists and local residents do not need to worry about the lack of medical services during the Games, Deng Xiaohong, deputy director of Beijing Municipal Health Bureau, said.

For an emergency, anyone can call 120 or 999 for an ambulance. Receptionists at 120 or 999 are required to pick up the call within 10 seconds and send an ambulance within two minutes.

During Games time, all medical orga-

nizations have to guarantee service on the weekend, including high-level professional doctors' appointment times, Deng said.

CTM service

For particular Chinese medical service, Dai said there are two world-known traditional medical hospitals specially appointed to provide service to the athletes.

One is Guang'anmen Hospital, China Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine and another is Traditional Chinese Medicine at Kuanjie.

They provide CTM treatment especially Chinese massage, *tui-na*, acupuncture and fire-cupping.

Numbers to call

Anyone can call 110 for an emergency situation, 12345 for non-emergency situation and 12308 for a game spectator. These numbers have multi-language services.

22 hospitals for Beijing 2008

China-Japan Friendship Hospital
Where: Yinghua Lu, East Hepingli Beikou, Chaoyang
Tel: 6422 1122

Beijing Hospital

Where: 1 Dongdan Dahua Lu, Dongcheng
Tel: 6513 2266

General Hospital of PLA

Where: 28, Fuxinglu, Haidian
Tel: 6688 7329/6693 7329

Beijing Xiehe Hospital

Where: 53 Dongdan Beidajie, Dongcheng
Tel: 6529 6114/5269/5284/5200

Guang'anmen Hospital

Where: 5 Beixiang, Guang'anmen Nei, Xuanwu
Tel: 6301 3311

Peking University First Hospital

Where: 8 Xishiku Dajie, Haidian
Tel: 6655 1122

Peking University Third Hospital

Where: 49 Huayuan Bei Lu, Daidian
Tel: 6201 7691

Peking University School of Stomatology

Where: 38 Baishiqiao Lu, Haidian
Tel: 6217 9977/6217 3402

Peking University People's Hospital

Where: 11 Xizhimen Nan Dajie, Xicheng
Tel: 8832 6666/ 6658 3666

Peking University Shougang Hospital

Where: Xihuancun, Shijingshan
Tel: 6887 5731

Beijing Anzhen Hospital

Where: Anzhen Xi Li, Andingmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang
Tel: 6441 2431

Beijing Chaoyang Hospital

Where: 8 Baijiazhuang Lu, Chaoyang
Tel: 8523 1000

Beijing Stomatological Hospital

Where: 4 Tiantan Xi Lu, Chongwen
Tel: 6709 9114

Beijing Tiantan Hospital

Where: 6 Tiantan Xilu, Chongwen
Tel: 6705 6565/6709 6611

Beijing Tongren Hospital

Where: 1 Dongjiao Minxiang, Dongcheng
Tel: 6513 5310/6512 9911

Beijing Friendship Hospital

Where: 95 Yong'an Lu, Xuanwu
Tel: 6301 4411/6315 4648

Beijing Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine

Where: 23 Meisuguan Hou Jie, Dongcheng
Tel: 5217 6852 for day time; 5217 6677 for night

Xuanwu Hospital

Where: 45, Changchun Jie, Xuanwu
Tel: 6301 3355

Beijing Jishuitan Hospital

Where: 31 Xinjiekou Dong Jie, Xicheng
Tel: 6618 1603

Beijing Haidian Hospital

Where: 29 Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian
Tel: 6255 1991

Beijing Boai Hospital

Where: 10 Jiaomen Bei Lu, Fengtai
Tel: 6756 3322

Emergency Medical Services

Where: 103 Qianmen Xi Dajie, Xicheng
Tel: 6601 2863

Gongwangfu opens to public next Wednesday

By Annie Wei

For people who are not interested in the bars and restaurants in the Houhai area, the newly-refurbished Gongwangfu can be a good spot for exposure to Chinese culture.

To a Chinese historian, Gongwangfu, built in 1776, is known as "a half of the Qing history." Visitors can review the glory of architecture in Qing Dynasty outside the Forbidden City.

Next Wednesday, it will re-open to public after the government invested 200 million yuan to renovate it over the past two years and seven months.

Only one part in Gongwangfu could not be recovered due to lack of historical records, Sun Xuguang, deputy-director of the Gongwangfu management center, said.

According to information they have, it used to be a two-story building with a traditional Chinese garden including a goldfish pond, fake mountain, water and delicate wall paintings, one of the most unique scenes in the mansion.

Only the emperor and his family



The newly-open Gongwangfu doubles its original area for public. CFP Photo

could live in the Forbidden City complex. Kinsfolk of the emperor could only live in their own mansions outside the complex, called the princely mansions. Gongwangfu, or Prince Gong's Residence, is

the largest and best-preserved.

Where: 17 Qianhai Xijie, Xicheng District
When: 8:30 am - 5 pm after August 20
Cost: 30 yuan

Security checks mandatory at wall and 11 parks

By Annie Wei

Starting yesterday, tourists are required to pass through security doors and x-ray machines at six entrances on the Great Wall.

Yesterday, the Badaling Great Wall re-opened to the public after the Olympic torch relay and cycling events.

A great number of tourists are expected to visit the Wall after the re-opening. Local police made some plans to ensure the safety of visitors. There will

be working staff to guide tourists at every wall tower and on steep routes.

Tourists with big bags are required to open them for inspection. Local police hope tourists will cooperate with their security checks and try not to visit the Wall with big bags or anything dangerous like a knife.

Local police asked tourists not to climb the wall tower, or walk to the wall on undeveloped routes.

If anyone comes to the wall with big

amounts of luggage, he or she can store it at two locations near Wencheng and the Great Wall Museum. The working staff also needs to x-ray the luggage before accepting it.

Local police have also started random security checks among tourists at another 11 parks.

They are the Summer Palace, the Temple of Heaven, Beihai Park, the Beijing Zoo, Beijing Botanical Garden, Yuyuantan Park, Taoranting Park, Zizuyuan Park, Zhongshan Park and the Fragrance Hill.

Agon, the Spirit of Ancient Greece

For many who will arrive over the next few months, the Olympics is not their only destination. They are curious to explore and to collect memorabilia. From this week through the end of September, *Beijing Today* will present a series of guides. The guides include current popular sites for food and shopping, and will lead visitors to sites of interest too new for the guidebooks. We hope you can feel the pulse of the city and dig deep into Beijing's daily life.

Outdoors

Tang Dynasty cave dwellings

An inter-connected series of cave dwellings located in Yanqing County were created by a Tang Dynasty ruler and his followers after fleeing from a coup. The cave dwellings were carved from the sandstone cliff and are extensive and well-designed, connected by tunnels and stairways and featuring heated kang beds, temples and meeting rooms and animal shelters on the lower levels.

Where: Meet on the ground floor of Starbucks (Jiangtai Lu, Lido Holiday Inn)

When: August 17, 8 am – 4:30 pm,
Cost: 350 yuan

Tel: 13910025516

(reservations are essential)

Royal Canal Boat Tour to the Summer Palace

This boat and walking tour provides an opportunity to see a bit of everything of the capital, both historical sites and daily life of Beijingers. Cruise along the imperial canal in a traditional-style motorized canopy boat past the Beijing Zoo, Beijing Aquarium and the Purple Bamboo Garden.

Where: meet in the square of the Beijing Exhibition Center, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng

When: August 16, 9 am – 3:30 pm
Cost: 230-380 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

(reservations are essential)

Datong Trip

Datong in the northern area of Shanxi, north China, is known for the second largest of the nearly 51,000 sandstone statues of Buddhas in 53 Yungang grottoes, the wooden Hanging Monastery built about 1,400 years ago on the extremely sheer cliffs of Hengshan Mountain. Bridges and corridors connect the different buildings of the monastery.

When: take the overnight train to Datong on August 15 and return by train on August 17

Cost: 1,700 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

(reservations are essential)

Five-day trek to Tiger Leaping Gorge and Lijiang

Tiger Leaping Gorge, tucked between the Yulong Snow Mountain and the Haba Mountains, offers one of the most attractive trekking experiences in the Southwest. The thunderous roar of the



Tiger Leaping Gorge



Beijing Central Art Gallery



Three Shadows Photography Art Centre

gushing river welcomes visitors as they approach the 16-kilometer gorge, which runs along the upper reaches of the Yangtze River. Starting from Lijiang, a pretty, little Naxi town located near the Tibetan border, you will enter the spectacular gorge via roads set among terraced hills. From here you walk along enchanting – and at times hair-raising paths overlooking a fall of 800 meters and a series of more than 20 rapids.

When: leave every Wednesday and Friday

Cost: 9,900 yuan

Tel: 5166 9102

(reservations are essential)

By Han Manman

Agon, the Spirit of Competition in Ancient Greece opened last week at the Beijing Capital Museum as the Olympic Games kicked into high gear. The archaeological exhibit will remain open until October 14.

By means of masterpieces of art and utilitarian articles, the event shows the sporting spirit which gave birth to the Olympic Games and emphasizes the cultural and spiritual dimensions of athletics.

As many as 166 national treasures from the National Archaeological Museum of Greece are on exhibit at the Capital Museum in a first-time overseas tour. These valuables were created during the 5th and 6th centuries BC.

"As the birthplace of the modern Olympics, we are trying to acclaim the Olympics and to stress that the purpose of competition is not to pursue medals and records, but to participate, exchange ideas, promote cultures and strengthen friendships," Mihalis Liapis, Greek minister of culture, said.

The scenes of ancient Greek competitions are showcased through the exhibits. In antiquity, athletic games were featured in civic festivals or Panhellenic festivals. They were held in sanctuaries in combination with other events. The objective was to create social integration of the people and political cohesion.

The exhibition is divided into four large units. The first of these, which is effectively also an introduction to the subject, presents the concept of the "agon." The Greek word "agon" translates as "fair play" and is personified and depicted as a winged spirit. Gods and Titans frequently competed and served as role models for humans. The Gods represented the supremacy over what was inferior, the mastery of the cultured mind and the conquest of barbarism by civilization.

The second unit is devoted to physical contests and the major Panhellenic sanctuaries, preeminently Olympia, but it also makes reference to smaller sanctuaries and local games.

The third unit, which deals with intellectual competitions, consists of four smaller sections, which deal in poetry, music and drama competitions. Great poets, such as Homer and Hesiod, participated in competitions and, in addition to vying for victory and the prize, also had the opportunity to expose their works to the audience. At all the great sanctuaries, apart from Olympia, music contests were held before the athletic and equestrian games took place.

The fourth unit is devoted to the results of the contests and the accolades and prizes being awarded to the victors. **Agon, the Spirit of Competition in Ancient Greece**

Where: Capital Museum

When: till October 14, daily except Mondays, 9 am – 5 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 6339 3339

(reservations are essential)

Exhibition

Selected Paintings of Ming and Qing Dynasties – joint exhibition of collected works of Palace Museum and National Art Museum of China

The exhibition shows 112 selected paintings of Ming and Qing dynasties, with 60 from the Palace Museum and 52 from the National Art Museum of China. Many of the works will be displayed to the public for the first time.

Where: National Art Museum of China, 1 Wusi Dajie, Dongcheng

When: Till August 29, daily 9 am – 5 pm

Admission: 20 yuan

Tel: 6400 6326

Charles Billich Olympic Artist Exhibition

The works cover some of the most coveted wall spaces in the world, including the Vatican in Rome, the UN Great Hall in Geneva, The Shaolin Temple in Hunan and the International Olympic Museum in Lausanne.

Where: Beijing Central Art Gallery, 02G/F Kempinski Hotel, 50 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Till August 31, daily except Mon, 10 am – 7 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6450 8483, 6450 8646

What Happened!

The works showed the complicated moods of a pregnant mother: expectation and fear of being harmed. The strange activities and expressions of the ghosts and spirits, the sculptures of big heads and small bodies with the cartoon-like characteristics and girls resembling both angels and fairies showing both fragile and adamant, naive and peculiar character traits.

Where: Fun Art Space, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

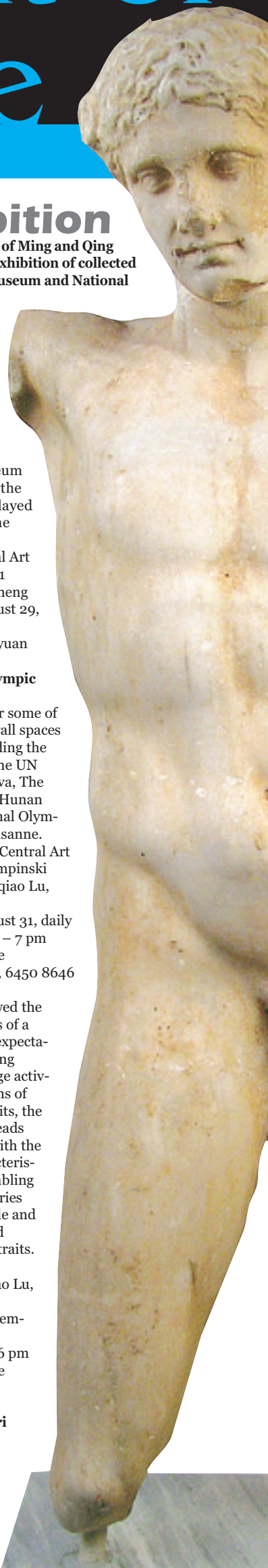
When: Till September 8, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8459 9257

New Works by RongRong and Inri

Photographers RongRong (China) and Inri (Japan) have worked together for eight years. Their



Competition in



A piece from The Spirit of Competition in Ancient Greece

works reflect the intimate world that they have created together while pushing the boundaries of traditional black-and-white darkroom techniques.

Where: Three Shadows Photography Art Centre, 155 Caochangdi, Chaoyang

When: Till October 7, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 2663 ext 8008

Picasso – Versos con la material

Where: Beijing Institute Cervantes, A 1 Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang

When: Till October 31, daily 10 am – 7 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5879 9666

Confusion Thoughts – Oil Painting Joint Exhibition

Where: The Fifth Element Gallery, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Till September 5, daily except Monday, 11 am – 6 pm,

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 1338

Red Gate Stars

Where: Red Gate Gallery, Dongbianmen Watchtower, Chongwen

When: Till August 31, daily 11 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6525 1005

Growth – Zhu Jing Solo Exhibition

Where: 94 Space, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Till September 5, Tuesday-Friday, noon – 6 pm, Saturday-Sunday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8456 0467

Wind, Horse, Flag – Zhang Dali Solo Exhibition

Where: Red Star Gallery, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Till October 7, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6437 0781

Fluxion Star

Where: Triumph Art Space, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Till September 20, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6:30 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8459 9639

Maiden Flight – Geng Duan Solo Exhibition

Where: 3818 Cool Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Till August 28, daily except Monday, 10:30 am – 6:30 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8688 2525

A piece from The Spirit of Competition in Ancient Greece



Patchwork Picture



3818 Cool Gallery



Fun Art Space

Folk Activities

Peking Opera Workshop

Peking Opera is a rich and informative aspect of Chinese culture. Professional Peking Opera actors introduce attendees to the history, complexity and subtleties of the famous medium.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: August 16, 7:30-9:30 pm

Cost: 150 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (registration is important)

Patchwork Pictures

Traditional Buduihua (patchwork picture), is made of rags with different colors cut, pasted, and embroidered into exquisite patterns. It is most popular in Shanbei, north of the northwestern province Shaanxi.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: August 20, 9:30 am – noon

Cost: 200 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (registration is important)

Ink & Wash Painting Class

Chinese painting is one of the oldest continuous artistic traditions in the world. Ink and wash painting is an East Asian type of brush painting. It is also known as wash painting.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: August 18, 7:30-9:30 pm

Cost: 120 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (registration is important)

Calligraphy

The calligraphy course is set up for non mandarin-speaking students and conducted in English, covering everything from meaning and evolution of

the characters and culture to history and music of the period.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: August 19, 10-11:30 am

Cost: 120 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (registration is important)

Movie

To the Limit

Where: Beijing Channel Zero Media, 7G Building 4 Meilin Garden, 33 Zizhuyuan Lu, Haidian

When: August 21, 7 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8855 0622

Dans les Cordes

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: August 15-18, 7:30 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

Los Suenosy Realidades del Equipo Tricolor

Where: Beijing Institute Cervantes, A 1 Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang

When: August 15-16, 7 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5879 9666

Rebecca

Where: Minty Bar, 26 Maoer Hutong, Dongcheng

When: August 18, 21, 9 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 13810222787

Vive le Tour

Where: Lanyang Bookstore, 3 Shuimo Xinqu, Haidian

When: August 19, 7:30 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6265 5069

Chinese documentary

Where: 2 Kolegas Bar, inside the drive-in movie theater park, 21 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: August 20, 9 pm

Admission: 10 yuan
Tel: 8196 4820

To the Limit

Where: Beijing Channel Zero Media, 7G Building 4 Meilin Garden, 33 Zizhuyuan Lu, Haidian

When: August 21, 7 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8855 0622

Nightlife

German Night

Where: Club Obiwan, 4 Xihai Xiyuan, Xicheng

When: August 16, 9 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6617 3231

Julian Marley

Julian Marley plays a not-to-be-missed reggae show at Star Live, celebrating the music of his father and Jamaica's Olympic dreams.

Where: Star Live, 79 Hepin Xi Lu, Dongcheng

When: August 16, 9 pm

Admission: 180-580 yuan

Tel: 5123 3866

DJ Matthias

Where: White Rabbit Club, C2, Haoyun Jie, 29 Zaoying Lu, Chaoyang

When: August 15, 10 pm

Cost: 70 yuan

Tel: 13321123678

Speakers

Where: Yugong Yishan, West Courtyard former site of the Duan Qirui Government, 2-3 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng

When: August 15, 10 pm

Admission: 50 yuan

Tel: 6404 2711

Black Cat Bone

Where: 2 Kolegas Bar, inside the drive-in movie theater park, 21 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: August 15, 10 pm

Admission: 40 yuan

Tel: 8196 4820

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... continued from page 13

14

City pulse

Smoke and Mirrors: An Experience of China

By Han Manman

"You've read lots of books on how a Westerner looks at China, but you've never seen a book on how China is viewed through Indian eyes," Pallavi Aiyar, the author of *Smoke and Mirrors: An Experience of China* said in her book talk last week at Culture Center of Indian Embassy.

The book is the first "China book" to be authored by an Indian in China. "It is an attempt to explore the themes that define

modern China – the dualities of freedom and control and the differential nature of achievements of modern Indian and Chinese states," Aiyar, a Beijing-based India correspondent, said.

Smoke and Mirrors, a combination of travelogues, reportage and memoirs, is the story of a country undergoing dizzying change, recounted through an Indian prism. The book portrays the failings and achievements of both Chinese and Indian civilizations – which are

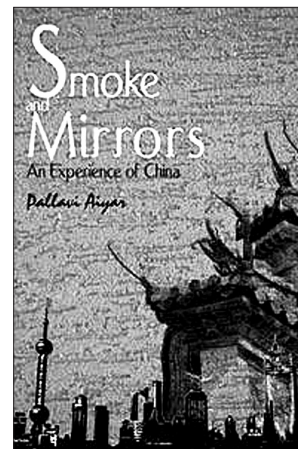
in many ways each other's alter ego. It looks at how people from each side of the Himalayas perceive each other; their prejudices and misconceptions, as well as their similarities and shared circumstances.

In her book, one sign of China's transformation is the febrile construction boom, with roads, buildings and malls sprouting up profusely. Half of the world's concrete and one-third of its steel output are being consumed by this bottomless drive for moder-

nity, a fact that humbled Aiyar as an Indian.

Aiyar's book also unveils cases of Chinese software professionals being trained by Indian companies and Indian medical students and yoga gurus pouring into China for opportunities.

Aiyar is the Beijing-based China correspondent for The Hindu group of publications. She has lived in and reported from China for over five years. She was the winner of the 2007



Prem Bhatia Memorial Award for excellence in political reporting and analysis, the youngest ever recipient of the prize, and was also awarded a Reuters Foundation Fellowship for study at Oxford in the same year.

Talk

Evolution and Destruction of Old Beijing

The lecture will retrace the history of Beijing from 3,000 years ago to present day, covering the existence and evolution of the city as well as the city layout and architecture. The lecturer is Han

Pu, a researcher of old Beijing who has worked at the Capital Library on archives of old Beijing for 25 years and published several books on the city's history and culture.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent

Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: August 20, 7:30-9:30 pm

Cost: 50 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

(registration is important)

Stage

Concert

Renee Fleming and Jonas Kaufmann Classical Concert

Who: Renee Fleming and Jonas Kaufmann

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: August 16, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-1,280 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Sound of the Music – Chorus Concert of World Famous Songs

Who: Beijing Festival Chorus

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: August 18, 7:30 pm

Admission: 10-100 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra

Who: Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: August 18-19, 7:30 pm

Admission: 120-800 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

A night for piano in China

Who: 10 of the world's top pianists

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: August 19, 7 pm

Admission: 600-2,800 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Swan – classic concert by cellist Zhu Yibing

Who: Zhu Yibing

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: August 20, 7:30 pm

Admission: 10-100 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

Cyprien Katsaris piano solo concert

Who: Cyprien Katsaris

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: August 21, 7:30 pm

Admission: 60-480 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Blue in Midnight – Red Hand Jazz Group Quintet Concert

Who: Red Hand Jazz Group

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: August 22, 7:30 pm

Admission: 10-100 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

Philippe Entremont piano recital

Who: Philippe Entremont

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: August 22, 7:30 pm

Admission: 60-480 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Hungarian Dances – Waltz and World Classics

Who: Beijing Symphony Orchestra

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: August 26, 7:30 pm

Admission: 10-100 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

New Zealand Symphony Orchestra Beijing Concert

Who: New Zealand Symphony Orchestra

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: August 27, 7:30 pm

Admission: 30-380 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

Philippe Entremont piano

Who: Philippe Entremont

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: August 22, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-680 yuan

Tel: 5165 6039

Sky Dance

Who: Kook Soo-Ho Didim Dance Company

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: August 15, 7:30 pm

Admission: 100-880 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

Flamenco Sabores

Who: Sara Baras

Where: Great Hall of the People, on the west side of Tiananmen Square, Xicheng

When: August 20, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-680 yuan

Tel: 5165 6039

Red Detachment of Women

Who: China National Ballet

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: August 23, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-500 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Ballet selections by China National Ballet

Who: China National Ballet

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: August 28-29, 7:30 pm

Admission: 20-100 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

Opera

French modern musical Marco Polo – the Imaginary Voyage

Who: created by Pierre Cardin

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: August 16, 7:30 pm

Admission: 60-800 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Large scale creative vaudeville - Colorful Life

Who: China National Opera and Dance Drama Company

Where: Tian Qiao Theater, 30

Beiwei Lu, Xuanwu

When: August 16-18, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-680 yuan

Tel: 5166 4511

Action musical - Terracotta Warriors

Who: Sight, Sound and

Action

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng

When: August 19-23, 7:30 pm

Admission: 150-850 yuan

Tel: 6835 4455

(By Li Jing)



A scene from Marco Polo



A scene from Marco Polo

Dongcheng

When: August 26, 7:30 pm

Admission: 10-100 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

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Who: New Zealand Symphony Orchestra

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Admission: 80-680 yuan

Tel: 5165 6039

recital

Who: Philippe Entremont

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: August 22, 7:30 pm

Admission: 60-480 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Dance

The Ballet Marco Polo

Where: The National Center

for the Performing Arts

When: August 16, 7:30 pm

Admission: 60-600 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Sky Dance

Who: Kook Soo-Ho Didim Dance Company

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: August 15, 7:30 pm

Admission: 100-880 yuan

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(By Li Jing)

Modern homes with antique furniture

15

Shopping

By Gan Tian

Have you ever thought of decorating your home in ancient style? No matter what one intends to buy – a Tibetan cabinet or ceramics with a Buddha figure – he or she can find it in Beijing. Beijing Today has found some of the best antique furniture markets in town.

Choose carefully

By Gan Tian

Ming furniture dates back to the end of Ming Dynasty. During the beginning and the middle of the dynasty, austerity was a government edict. The economy grew, people had to remain low key about their wealth to avoid high taxes. With the issuance of a policy to lower taxes, people finally found a way to vent their natural inclinations. The trends went beyond a rich and decent life; luxury and novelty became the fashion.

Under the influence of this new social wave, people, rich or poor, were free to wear bright and magnificent clothes and to build large houses. Consequently, luxurious furniture was needed.

At the beginning of the Qing Dynasty, furniture followed Ming pattern and style. During the reign of Emperors Kangxi, Yongzheng and Qianlong, furniture became more distinct with the absorption of Western art. It was larger in size with grandeur and pageantry.

Engraving was a popular and important means of furniture decoration. Subjects ranged from auspicious characters to geometric patterns and scenes of flora and fauna. Gold paint was widely used.

If you want to pick up some perfect copies, pay attention to the following tips. Many vendors try to pass these pieces off as a real antique. If the piece looks too perfect to be an antique, this should be a warning sign. Do not be fooled by "certificates of authenticity" or "wax seals," which mean nothing in most cases.

The material used for these reproductions can be selected from a whole range of tropical and Chinese woods, even the age of the wood itself, to some extent, can be chosen. These pieces should only be purchased from a reputable dealer.

Ming and Qing dynasty furniture

By Wang Yu

In recent years, an antique Chinese table or desk usually went for a bargain price. This trend has been noticed by many antique collectors. Furniture from the Ming and Qing dynasties have become more popular and their pieces have escalated with the demand for luxury items.

Materials used to make this furniture are special. Huangli, for example, a simple style, elegant lines, beautiful curves and a particular fragrance. Some of these materials are more expensive than gold.

Over the centuries, furniture design and manufacture continued to be refined until late Ming. A piece of Ming furniture could cost a collector as much as 10 million yuan.

Furniture produced in the early Qing Dynasty was similar to that of the Ming Dynasty and still contained classic and simple elements. But that all changed by the end of 18th century. The traditions of Ming were replaced by angular forms and overly ornate carvings.

Pinyiyuan, an ancient Chinese furniture shop in the Tianya antique mall, was started by Zhuo Zuhang, whose major in college was computer technology. The shop is decorated in classical style and has goods from Ming and Qing.

Its most valuable piece is an antique screen from late Qing Dynasty, which has fantastic carvings of the Buddhas reading scriptures. There are 32 characters carved on the screen and each is vivid and lifelike. Zhuo said the screen was brought in around 2002 and meant to be placed in the family hall of a big, old house for worship.

Many ancient pieces were collected from Fujian Province where the owner's family resides. Another antique screen named "Jin Xiu Chuan Fang" is an attention grabber with its fancy carvings and glimmering gold foil.

The ancient Chinese artisans also attempted to tell stories such as *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms* and *Madame White Snake* by carving the tales into the wood, which now have become elegant pieces of furniture found at Pinyiyuan.

Pinyiyuan

Where: 476, F4, Tianya Antique Mall, 6 Huaweinanlu, Chaoyang District
Open: 10 am – 6 pm
Tel: 5136 9051

Panjiayuan a market of Beijing's culture

By Venus Lee

The traditional culture of Beijing is not confined to the Palace Museum of the Forbidden City or the interlaced hutongs with their long history, but also exists at the Panjiayuan antique market. Nowadays, Panjiayuan has become a distinctive tourist attraction.

The antique market is the biggest curio distributing center in China and it consists of six areas: booths with plastic shelters, ancient housing, ancient furniture, modern collection, stone carving and sculptures and food and beverages service. There are 4,000 stores in the market, which opens everyday except for the booth area, which opens only on weekends.

The market specializes in antique reproduction furniture, the four treasures of the study, ancient books, calligraphy and painting, jewelry, pottery, carvings and sculptures, shadowgraphs and Peking Opera makeup, Buddhist amulets, national costumes and ancient coins. Various handicrafts with distinctive folk characters are gathered for sale.

Among its curios, antique reproduction furniture enjoys enhanced worth, both for its historical value and for the wood itself. Guo Zhenshan, manager of Taoranj, an antique reproduction furniture store, said furniture can be appraised through five aspects.

• Material. Generally speaking, the wood falls into two categories, hard and soft. All high-class furniture is made of hard wood, which includes chrysanthemum pear wood, padauk or rosewood and Annatto.

• Craftsmanship. This is the key element embodying the connotation of the furniture. It can be judged several ways: size and shape designing and adornment techniques on the surface of the furniture, such as crafts of carving and sculpting, embedding and burnishing.

• Period. Furniture from different periods has different value. Age is the most important criteria in judging antique furniture.

• Variety. Furniture can be used in the living room, study room or bedroom according to its function. Living room furniture enjoys the highest art value.

• Integrity. The completeness of the piece can also influence its price.

"So in general, the starting price of high-class rosewood should be at seven figures," Gu said. "It is valuable knowledge when one learns about antique reproduction furniture."

If you are free on the weekend, take a stroll through the market, even if you do not buy anything, it is a good place to quench your thirst for Chinese culture. It has already been marked as a cultural and historical museum.

Panjiayuan

Where: 18, Huaweili, Chaoyang District

Open: 8:30 am – 6 pm, Monday to Friday, 4:30 am – 6 pm on Saturday and Sunday

Tel: 5120 4671

Continued on page 16 ...



Photo by Venus Lee



Photo by Wang Yu



Editor: Gan Tian Designer: Deng Ning

BEIJING TODAY

Antiquity available in Lujiaying

By Zhang Dongya

For the expert collector, Lujiaying is the place to go. It is a distributing center for Shanxi people to show their collected treasures, especially folk culture items in town.

It is also called "a warehouse for Hebei people," since it attracts most of its customers from Hebei Province to vend and repair old and ancient furniture collected from the province.

The most authentic old articles are hidden in the village of Lujiaying. Nearly all its courtyards have been rented to the peddlers specializing in antiquities.

Every day, many folksy, antique-style pieces are brought in, including wooden sculptures, ancient furniture accessories, ancient palace lanterns, traditional screens and fresco. Since the are sold warehouse style, the prices are cheaper – almost half the going rate in Panjiayuan.

For the tourists who think it is too big to find what they want can choose the furniture malls for imitation ancient furniture.

One of the biggest is Gushengfa Classical Furniture Market, featuring specially-chosen delicate wooden items. The prices are higher than those in the village warehouses, but products are selected and newly made for clients. The market also offers materials processing and takes orders.

One shop called Juguxuan has very experienced and well-trained professional technicians who offer top workmanship. It is based in Hebei Province and has opened its Beijing branches both in Panjiayuan and Lujiaying. All furniture is made in its Hebei workshop and assembled in Beijing. "We specialize in varied hard-wood furniture, including red sandalwood, Burma Padauk and mahogany furniture," Xiao Baoling, the manager, said.

Gushengfa Classical Furniture Market

Where: Lujiaying, Shibalidian, Chaoyang District
Open: 9 am – 9 pm



Photo by Zhang Dongya



A museum for classical furniture

By Jin Zhu

If you are interested in Chinese classical furniture, a good place to visit is the Gaobeidian classical furniture market. It is located in Gaobeidian village, an old village by the Tonghui River. There are 400 stores opened by firms from 10 provinces such as Hebei and Shanxi. All the stores specialize in repair, design and manufacture, as well as exhibit and sell classical furniture collections.

Walking down the street, it feels like you are passing through a classical furniture museum. Many stores are decorated in traditional Chinese features, such as enched windows, red brick walls and pendant tablets. Although they seem small, many house amazing classical pieces.

Seeking out authentic classical furniture in this market is not easy for amateurs. You have to research. Most classical furniture is Ming or Qing dynasty style. "Generally speaking, Ming furniture is characterized by a simple and elegant structure with fluent lines and appealing proportions. On the contrary, Qing furniture is larger and more imposing with elaborate carvings and inlays," Liuxin, spokesman for the market, said.

Learn how to distinguish real from fake. "If it is marked as rosewood and is priced low, it must be a fake," Zhangqin, a classical furniture lover, said. "The price of rosewood varies with kinds and quality. If you have taken a fancy to valuable classical furniture, you'd better invite an expert to help you distinguish between high and low quality first."

The final step before purchasing is to examine every detail of the furniture. "Having balanced feet, tight rabbets, flexible switches and smooth lines at every joint are all necessary," Zhang said.

As for tourists who just plan on window shopping, famous stores are good places. "Some have been appointed to provide guide service for tourists," Liu said.

Gaobeidian classical furniture market

Where: 551 Gaobeidian Village, Chaoyang District
Tel: 8576 1701

Photo by Jin Zhu

Antique furniture shows good taste

By Milo Lee

Do you still go to IKEA for your furniture? If you do, then you are really behind the times when it comes to interior decorating.

A lot of Chinese prefer to accessorize their rooms with traditional furniture. Not only does it give an elegant ambiance to the house, but also it is durable and practical. Beijing has many antique furniture stores. In the north, Beijing Antique City of Yayuncun Market is a good place to start.

The Yayuncun Market lies on the east side of Anding Road. Due to its convenient location, this curio-distributing center has become a rendezvous spot for collectors to find top class calligraphy and painting, antique furniture, ancient pottery and porcelain and craft products. Antique furniture stores are scattered around its premises, making the research for fine furniture a treasure hunt.

Fiona's Classic Furniture is one of the many stores at Yayuncun. The owner, an elderly woman, has been in the business for more than 30 years and much of the furniture is of her design. With her scrutiny of every aspect of the furniture making process, Fiona's Classic Furniture has established its fame in the Yayuncun circle.

Chinese furniture is mainly made of hard woods, like rosewood, bamboo and boxwood. Thick lacquer finish and detailed engravings and paintings, as well as pragmatic design elements make the craftwork consummate and unique. Furniture in Ming and Qing Dynasty style is most popular because the craftwork had reached its zenith.

To purchase furniture – especially ancient furniture – you have to develop the skills to decide which piece is worthy the money. A wise choice is to bring a friend who knows furniture. If you are not a pro, that's OK. If you are not a furniture collector, knock-off furniture is a good choice as long as you don't display it in front of an expert.

Beijing Antique City of Yayuncun Market

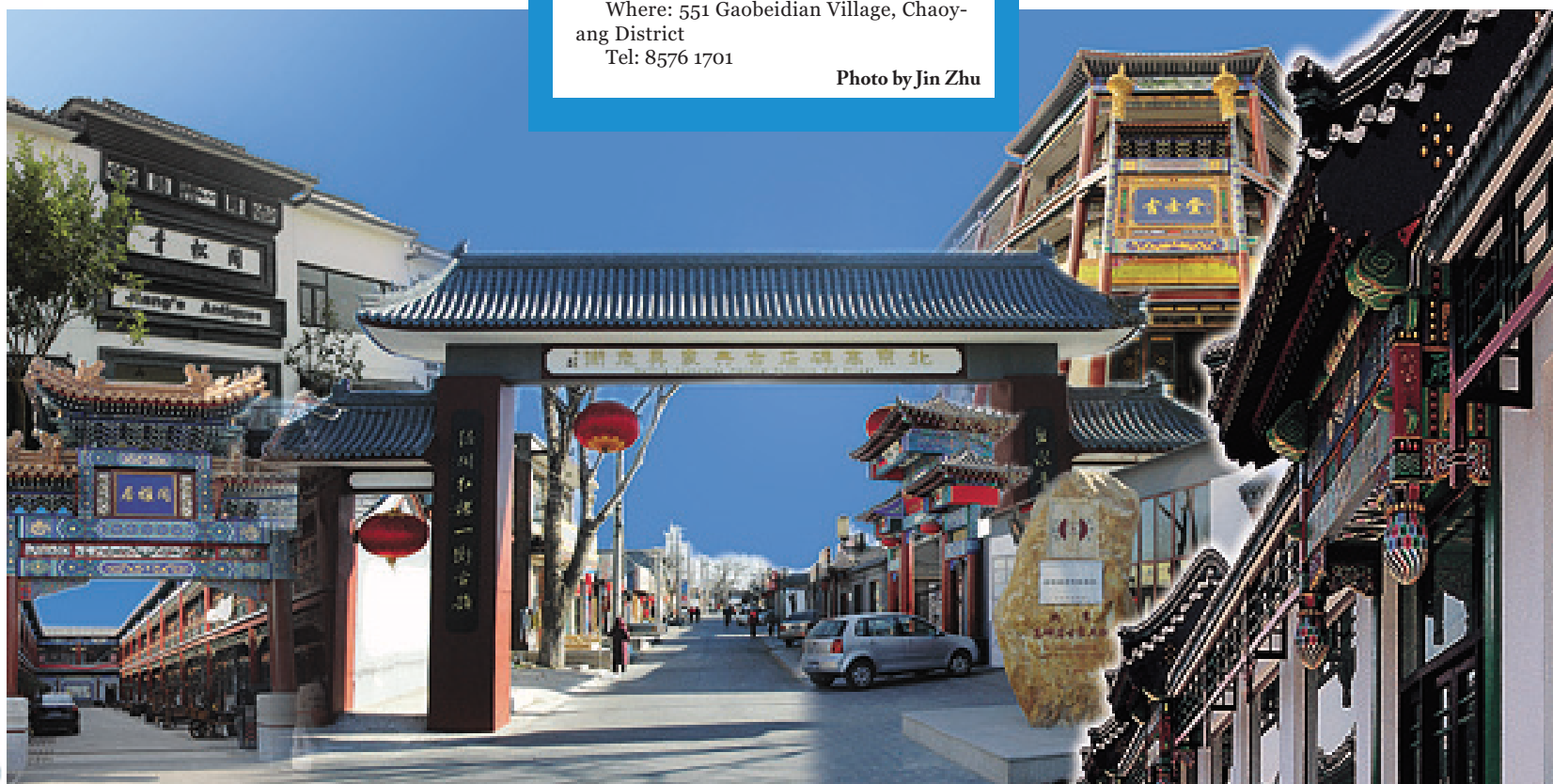
Where: 43, Xiaoguanxiejie, Chaoyang District (east of Anding Road)

When: 9 am – 6 pm

Tel: 6398 7272



Photo by Milo Lee



Spice up the town, Sichuan style

By Gan Tian

The first word that comes to mind when anyone talks about Sichuan food is spicy.

Though Beijing does not share the province's high humidity and rainy days, the hot dishes in Sichuan food are a great way to make your inner temperature match the city's outer temperature.

Beijing Today has some of the best Sichuan restaurants in town to spice up your next night out.

The beauty of Southern dishes

By Venus Lee

One saying claims "the best diet is in China, but the best taste is in Sichuan." Many Sichuan restaurants are scattered throughout Beijing. Among them, South Beauty, called Qiaojiangnan in Chinese, is the most popular.

The first thing diners think of when they hear Sichuan is "hot."

The hot pepper can accelerate movement of the stomach, help burn fat and speed up the metabolism. Chili peppers, rich in Vitamin A, are also good for the skin. Sichuan girls, known for having a healthy glow, tend to be fond of hot food.

But actually, Sichuan cuisine includes six kinds of taste: hot, peppery, sweet, salty, acidic and bitter. In Qiaojiangnan, you can sample all six.

Several exclusive dishes, such as Huiguo Guiyu and Liangyibairou, appeal to male customers. Shizheng-touhua, Jiweixia, Jiangshigunfeiniu, Bawangxie, Jisiliangmian, Shousiji and Maoxuewang are also very delicious and popular. Although the flavor is mainly hot, the menu is enough to satiate the most picky palate.

The restaurant is divided into three areas: the sofa area, the leisure stone bench area and the VIP area. No matter

whether dining with family, friends or guests, there is always a good spot.

For a leisurely meal without the worries of gaining weight, Qiaojiangnan is one of the best Sichuan restaurants to try.

South Beauty

Where: L220, 2 F, the west tower of the China World Trade Center, 1 Jianguomen

Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am - 2:30 pm; 5-11 pm

Tel: 6505 0809

Special soft totu

One of the most famous spices in the world

By Gan Tian

The hot pepper has been the flavor of Sichuan ever since it was introduced to the region from South America around the end of the 17th century.

Sichuan cuisine is one of China's most famous internationally. Characterized by its spicy and pungent flavor, and with a myriad of tastes, it emphasizes the use of pepper and prickly ash. Garlic, ginger and fermented soybean are also used in cooking process. Wild vegetables and meats are frequent ingredients, and frying, dry frying, pickling and braising are used in the basic cooking techniques.

Sichuan cuisine can be traced back to the ancient Ba Kingdom, in present-day Chongqing, and the Shu Kingdom, in Chengdu. The foggy, cloudy and damp climate in the Sichuan Basin is one of the reasons the region prefers such hot dishes. Hot food is useful in dispersing humidity.

Another characteristic of Sichuan cuisine is preparation of different dishes with the same materials. With a piece of half-fat, half-lean pork, Sichuan cooks can prepare a number of different dishes with different flavors, such as salted-fried pork slices, twice-cooked pork, hot and sweet shredded pork, fried pork cubes, sliced pork cooked with rice crust, sweet steamed pork chunks, salty steamed pork chunks, pork steamed with ground glutinous rice and white cut hot pork.

The region is also known for its tasty snacks, including hot ox-head meat, spiced chicken, tea-stewed ducklings, marinated rabbit, pickled vegetables, dumplings and eight-treasure rice pudding.

A typical Sichuan menu features hot pot, smoked duck, Kung-pao chicken, water-boiled fish, tasty and spicy crab, twice-cooked pork and Mapo Tofu. The food is legendary in China for its sophistication and diversity, with over 5,000 dishes from the region alone.

Mandarin fish with pickled chili

Photos provided by South Beauty

Exquisite food meets fine wine at First Prego



By Li Jing

Don't be intimidated by the cool and lavish exterior of Prego at Westin Hotel. The restaurant has a twist on casual dining to match its rustic Italian cuisine.

An open kitchen and central pizza oven liven up the restaurant. It is an entertaining and educational experience to watch the kitchen staff prepare your meal.

Freshly-baked bread is served

as a prelude to the first course.

Wonderfully soft and with a good crust, the time-honored recipe is delicious when dipped in Prego's homemade sauce.

"Insalata di Mare," a fresh and tangy seafood, is the signature dish. Presented in a clear glass bowl, the dish is as pleasing to the eye as it is on the palate. The Roast Pigeon is so delicious that diners will fall in love after

the first bite.

Prices are reasonable coming from a restaurant within a five-star hotel. There is a wide variety of Italian food, from standard pastas and pizzas to the chef's exquisite creations coupled with unique presentations.

It's also a good place to go for a drink. A floor-to-ceiling collection of fine wines includes 100 aged Italian wines and another

100 international wines. The temperature is carefully controlled to maintain the wines' flavor. Two private dining rooms are encased by the collection, each seating 12.

Prego

Where: the Westin Beijing Financial Street, 9B Financial Street, Xicheng

Tel: 6606 8866 ext 7815

Continued on page 18 ...

... continued from page 17



Chanzuiwa, salted bullfrog with chili sauce
Photo by Jin Zhu

By Jin Zhu

The recently-opened Chuanyixiangdu has been a surprise hit on the capital's Sichuan dining scene.

It is decorated in both Chinese and Western style.

Porcelain ornaments and Western-style couches go hand in

hand in its hallway decor. Its use of color is both elegant and fashionable.

One of the most famous specialties in Chuanyixiangdu is koukou duck. Its ducks are selected and brought in from Sichuan Province. After steaming and roasting, koukou duck comes out with a crisp, tender flavor and great aroma.

"Koukou duck is really different from Beijing roast duck," Zhongdan, a Sichuan cuisine lover who noted its reasonable price, said.

Chuanyixiangdu has other popular specialties, such as fried

fish in chili sauce, beef bones with Sichuan sauce and braised mushrooms in abalone sauce.

Unlike other traditional Sichuan restaurants, its menu includes both spicy and mild dishes. Many people order a mix of each when dining. Wild yams and walnut mixed with vegetables is a house favorite.

"Because of the delicious light dishes, there is no need to worry about feeling too hot inside after dining," Zhong said.

The restaurant is serving carbon-baked oysters to all customers during the Olympics.

Chuanyixiangdu

Where: 11 Huixin East Revenue, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 11 pm

Tel: 6482 3199

New restaurant takes on Beijing's bird



Maoxuewang, different ingredients in chili sauce in Spice Spirit

An authentic, spicy attraction

By Gan Tian

You will be reminded of the ubiquity of chili in Sichuan cuisine by the peppery aroma that tickles the nostrils as you enter this stylish restaurant. Spice Spirit attracts a young, affluent crowd that clearly doesn't mind the wait for a table.

Mala Youhuo could be translated as a spicy "attraction" or "seduction." The English name explains it best – this place is Mecca for heat seekers.

Being a Sichuan restaurant, the mouth-numbing Shuizhuyu, fish cooked in an oily and peppercorn-laden soup and priced 42 yuan per jin, is a must-order. Xiaomijiao aishang

xiaogongji, priced at 32 yuan, pairs pre-fried chicken cubes with flavorful bamboo in chili oil. The menu nods to Cantonese cuisine with a selection of dim sum.

The Chanzuiwa, salted bullfrog with chili sauce, is as spicy as Shuizhuyu, but the frog meat soaks in more chili sauce. It is also softer than fish and melts off the bone.

The tables and chairs are painted red and black, like the colors of the dishes. Even the glasses of lifesaving, fire-quenching juice are red.

Reserved seating is a must, even on weeknights. The branch restaurants are all near the city's subway stations,

so they may be more accessible during rush hour.

Mala Youhuo (Spice Spirit)

Open: 11 am – midnight

Dongzhimen Branch

Where: Sky Plaza F3, Dongzhimen Wai Dajie, Dongcheng District

Tel: 8460 8558

Dazhongsi Branch

Where: west gate of the Taiyangyuan District, Dazhongsi, Haidian District

Tel: 8211 9966

Xidan Branch

Where: F7, Grand Pacific Mall, 133 Xidan Bei Dajie, Xicheng District

Tel: 8265 6688

Where to eat

Zhuyufang

Where: Beijige Santiao, Dongcheng District

Open: 11 am – 1:30 pm, 5 pm – 9:30 pm

Tel: 6522 2335

Spring Trees Restaurant

Where: 18 Cheniandian Hutong, Dongcheng District

Open: 10:30 am – 10:30 pm

Tel: 6406 9521

South Beauty

Where: F2, Manhattan CNT Building Beijing, south of Swissotel Hotel, Dongcheng District

Open: 11 am – 1:30 pm, 5 pm – 9:30 pm

Tel: 8528 2331

Yuxin Chuancai

Where: 5A Xingfu Yicun Xi Li, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6415 8168

Wanli

Where: Renaissance Hotel, 36 Xiaoyun Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 11:30 am – 2:30 pm, 5 pm – 10 pm

Tel: 6468 9999 ext 3131

Very Sichuan Restaurant

Where: B1, Building I, E-tower, 11 Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian District

Open: 11 am – 2 pm, 5 pm – 9:30 pm

Tel: 5162 7878

Yuxiang Renjia

Where: 1.2 kilometers east of the Xisanqi Huandao, Haidian District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6271 3963

Xinchuan Mianguan

Where: 14 Xinjiekou Nan Dajie, Xicheng District

Open: 6 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6618 2452

(By Gan Tian)

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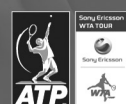
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Scouting for remnants of old Beijing

By Jackie Zhang

While hutongs continue to disappear, there are still streets and buildings that represent the city's memory.

Tianqiao, Xuanwu District, used to be a window into the customs and culture of old Beijing. Peking Opera, *pingshu*, or storytelling, *xiangsheng*, a kind of comic dialogue, *kuaiban'er* and acrobatics were common in the area.

Since renovations began in 1949, many of these traditional arts and performances have vanished. The city's tea houses, opera stages and theaters remain a refuge for the performers of then and now. It is another way to find old Beijing.

Teahouses

A cup of capital life

In your spare time, or the regular tour is uninteresting, find a teahouse to sit down and have a cup of tea. It is a chance to taste many kinds of Chinese tea, and also to watch traditional Beijing performances like *pingshu*, *xiangsheng*, *kuaiban'er* and Beijing *qinshu*, a form of storytelling in song, with musical accompaniment.

In old Beijing, there were tea shops, big tea shops, elegant tea shops and tea shops in the field.

The big shops opened in the city in big houses. In the past, there were always crowds of people gathered in these tea houses to drink and look for work. They were busy places with people from many levels of society. The elegant shops were different. Their guests were of high social status. "Shops in the field" refers to "tea sheds" in the open air in suburban areas. Guests were usually poor people who did business outside the city.

Laoshe Tea House

In modern times, the old word *chaguan* has morphed into *chalou*, or tea house. The most famous is the Laoshe Tea House.

The tea house is named after Laoshe (1899-1966), a famous modern writer who wrote the drama *Chaguan*. It was established in 1988 and is a comprehensive tea house that includes storytelling performances, food and tea.

Laoshe is considered a wonderful place for foreigners to experience authentic Beijing culture. Its daily performances include Peking opera, acrobatics, Sichuan face-changing, magic and story telling. It serves many kinds of tea and Beijing snacks.

So far, heads of 47 stages have visited Laoshe. The number of both domestic and foreign guests exceeds 2 million.

The tea house in Qianmen Dajie is constructed like a Beijing courtyard. You can drink tea and have dishes like roast ducks. Over 20 types of Chinese tea are provided.

Every Wednesday and Friday afternoon, opera fans organize events in the tea house. In the afternoons from Monday to Friday, there are traditional music performances.

Where: Building 3, Qianmen Xi Dajie, Dongcheng District

Open: 11:30 am - 9:30 pm

Tel: 6301 7454

Qianmen Dawancha (tea served in big bowls)

Qianmen Dawancha is famous among Beijingers. In many old people's minds, *dawancha* represents a part of the past. For 2 fen (0.02 yuan), you can enjoy a big bowl of tea.

In 1979, the first dawancha pavilion was established by a group of young, educated people who returned to the city from villages.

At that time, many people, also those who came and toured in Beijing, all knew the dawancha pavilion at Qianmen Dajie. When they were thirsty, they would buy a bowl of tea. The dawancha stand is next to Laoshe Chaguan. Although the prices of everything else have risen, a bowl of tea remains 2 fen. The stand operates until 4 or 5 pm.



Qianmen dawancha



The tea-performance at Laoshe Tea House.



Acrotatic performances at Chaoyang Theater

CFP Photos

Acrobatics Beauties and skills

Acrobatics has a long history in China. In ancient times, acrobatics were performed for the royal family. By Song Dynasty (960-1279), acrobatic shows became available to common people through professional troupes. Over time, the art lost its once high-class status. By Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), acrobats had to perform in the street for a living.

Acrobatics remains popular for its difficulty and beautiful performances. Chinese acrobats use many tools from daily life in their performances.

Tianqiao Acrobatics Theater

Acrobatic performances were once common in Beijing's streets, especially near Tianqiao. The Beijing Acrobatics Troupe was founded there in 1957, and its theater remains a popular place to view performances.

Many famous tumblers performed at Tianqiao in the past. The Tianqiao Acrobatics Theater is still the main venue for the Beijing Acrobatics Troupe.

The troupe has been to many foreign countries. Its acrobatic performances are famous for difficulty and skill, and it has won many international acrobatics competitions in France, Canada and Russia, as well as in Wuqiao, a county in Hebei Province famous for its acrobatics tradition.

Beijing Tianqiao Acrobatics Theater is a comprehensive theater for acrobatics performances. It has regular performances at 5:30 and 7:15 pm every day.

Where: opposite the Tianqiao Theater east end of Beiwei Lu, Xuanwu District
Open: 5:30 - 6:30 pm, 7:15 - 8:40 pm

Chaoyang Theater

Chaoyang Theater, established in 1984, is another place to see authentic acrobatic performances. In 1986, the theater was authorized as a location to perform for tourists from within China and abroad.

In its early stage, it helped organize artistic and drama performances for Chinese and foreign guests. Then, it emphasized acrobatics performances.

The theater's Lion Dance is popular with both Chinese and foreigner attendees. It is a key element in the celebration of any Chinese holiday or special event. The "lions" and musicians chase away evil spirits and bring good luck, long life, and prosperity to all present.

Huangban emphasizes the performer's balance. The performer stands on a board which is on a roller. While balancing the body, the performer also flips bowls up onto his or her head. In another performance, dozens of female acrobatics ride on one bicycle.

Chaoyang Theater performs every day throughout the year. In order to have a nice seat for watching the performance, visitors should buy tickets two days in advance.

Where: 36, East 3rd Ring Road Bei Lu, Chaoyang District
Performance time: 5:15-6:15 pm, 7:15-8:30 pm
Tel: 5166 4511

Continued on page 21 ...

... continued from page 20



A Peking Opera performance at Beijing Huguang Huiguan

Peking Opera Old and new stages

By He Jianwei

Peking Opera, a synthesis of music, dance, art and acrobatics, originated in the late 18th century. It is known as China's national opera and is widely regarded as the highest expression of its culture. *Beijing Today* selected three main theaters for enjoying Peking Opera.

Origins and enjoyment

Although called Peking Opera, its origin is not in Beijing, but in Anhui and Hubei provinces. The form was born when the Four Great Anhui Troupes came to Beijing in 1790, originally to perform for the royal family and then the public. In 1828, some famous Hubei Troupe members came to Beijing. As Hubei and Anhui troupes began to perform together, the fusion of their styles formed the foundation of Peking Opera's melodies.

Peking Opera can be divided into "civil" pieces, characterized by singing, and "martial" ones, featuring acrobatics and stunts. Some operas are a combination of both.

There are four roles in general: the male, the female, the "painted face" and the clown, which are further classified by age and profession. Makeup highlights and exaggerates the principal features of the characters.

Two orchestras, playing string and percussion instruments, accompany the singing, which follows a fixed pattern but has a variety of melodies and rhythms. The jinghu, a small two-string bowed instrument, is the backbone of the orchestra.

Beijing Huguang Huiguan

The classically-styled wooden structure in Hufang Qiao, Xuanwu District has beautifully painted beams, upturned eaves and a tile-

covered roof, making it one of the world's best wooden theaters.

Beijing Huguang Hall was established in 1807. It has a unique layout with its magnificent principal opera building, lofty pavilions and side courts and halls.

The hall was set up for people from Hubei and Hunan Provinces who were in Beijing to gather and exchange information and improve friendship. It also provided housing and food service to visitors. The hall was used to hold banquets for social elites.

It was renovated in 1990 and the Grand Theater opened to the public on May 8, 1996. The hall was converted to a Peking Opera and Drama Exhibition Hall and hosts stage performances.

The original gate of the hall was located at the south side and faced north, but it no longer exists. The main buildings include the opera building, Wenchang building, Xiangxian Temple and Chuwan hall.

The place often reminds English visitors of Shakespeare's Globe Theater. It has the same projecting stage with two pillars, galleries where the audience can sit and music during the show.

As well as enjoying the performance, visitors can see the costumes displayed in its museum.

Where: 3, Hufang Lu, Xuanwu District
Tel: 6351 8284

Chang'an Grand Theater

Combining ancient Chinese architecture with modern technology, this theater is located in Guanhua Chang'an Building, on the north side of East Chang'an Avenue.

In early Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), teahouses with opera performances emerged in



Beijing Chang'an Grand Theater CFP Photos

Beijing. They were the predecessors of Chang'an Grand Theater. The primitive teahouse-theaters, which were usually located in busy commercial areas, were always crowded, with tea waiters and snack vendors moving through the crowds until the curtain rose.

The original Chang'an Grand

Theater was built by Peking Opera fan and businessman Yang Zhusheng. Yang came up with the plan to build his own theater after failing to book the best VIP box to see Xun Huisheng, one of the biggest Peking Opera stars at the time. After the theater was built, Yang's son Yang Shouyi, another Peking Opera fan, was appointed manager.

It did not take long for it to become one of the most popular theaters in Beijing.

In the 1950s, a group of veteran architects from the Beijing Institute of Architectural Design tested Beijing's best theaters for acoustics and concluded that Chang'an Grand Theater was the best without the aid of electrical equipment.

The performance hall, decorated in ancient Chinese style, has 800 seats. The front rows in the hall consist of 130 rosewood chairs and 26 rosewood tables, on which teapots, dinnerware with hand-painted images and royal-court-style snacks are placed for performances, reminiscent of the atmosphere of an ancient theater. The entrance hall, with Italian natural marble as flooring, hosts stalls selling Chinese-style paintings, handicrafts and replicas of antiques, restaurants, teahouses and a pub.

After the last emperor was deposed in the early 1900s, Chang'an Grand Theater became one of the first theaters to stage a new genre of Peking Opera, as well as imported Western plays.

Where: 7, Jianguomennei Street, Dongcheng District
Tel: 5123 3866

Mei Lanfang Grand Theater

Mei Lanfang Grand Theater, named after Mei Lanfang (1894-1961), a brilliant Peking Opera performer, opened to the

public late last November. The theater is located at the north end of the Financial Street in Xicheng District. It is a fan-shaped building with a stylish steel and glass structure. The interior of the theater features key components of traditional architecture such as magnificent bright red columns and walls, reminiscent of those seen in royal palaces.

Mei served as the first president of the National Peking Opera, which was founded in January 1955. His reputation was unrivaled in the recent history of Peking Opera. In the 1930s and 1940s, when the Japanese army invaded China, Mei directed and performed operas that called on Chinese people to fight against the enemies and save the country. He refused to perform for the Japanese army and stayed away from the stage for eight years. During that period, he supported himself and helped friends and former colleagues by selling paintings and pawn-ing his belongings.

A bronze seated statue of Mei is placed at the center of the lobby. Dozens of woodcuts portraying the history of Peking Opera are mounted on the walls.

In the old days, Chinese operas were staged in boisterous theater houses, which also served foods, drinks, fruits and other snacks during the performances. The building is configured according to acoustic science and equipped with hi-tech devices to produce amazing high fidelity audio effects.

The three-story theater seats more than 1,000. There are seats for handicapped persons as well. The theater is easily accessible by car, bus and subway.

Where: 32, Ping'anli Xi Dajie, Xicheng District
Tel: 5833 1210



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The Art of Persuasion (Part 2)

By Preston Teeter

In last week's article, we learned how building trust and showing benefits and consequences helped Jessica persuade her staff to stay with the company during restructuring. However, she also used some advanced persuasion techniques to convince her staff that staying was the best choice.

It is easy to tell someone about the benefits and consequences of accepting your idea, but you must ensure you have strong support for these claims. When Jessica explained that each staff member would be working overtime if a few others left, she had to prove this claim. She researched one of her company's top competitors who recently went through similar restructuring. She found that many of the top employees left within the first month, and this soon influenced 75 percent of the remaining staff to leave because of the overly-demanding workload. She also found that employees who made up this 75 percent took an average of 18 months to find a new job. When Jessica presented this information, everyone accepted her claim as valid.

There is a variety of ways

to support any claim. However the support must have a clear connection to the claim at hand and come from a valid source. For example, if I am trying to persuade my family members that Sanya would be the most relaxing holiday destination, I would quote someone my family trusts as saying Sanya

someone, we feel suddenly injected with a storm of emotions and energy. The problem with our natural reactions is that they provide no assistance when trying to persuade. When disagreeing, it is important to first listen and absorb all of the information. During this time, you will start to clam

or, or travel destination. If Jessica appeared uncertain in her belief that staying with the company was in the best interest of everyone, her employees would have felt uncertain as well and chosen the safer option of looking for a new job.

When selecting appropriate body language and words, remember to mirror and match your recipient. Your recipient will feel more comfortable if you adopt a similar posture and use similar expressions. For example, if a great job candidate told me he or she was looking for a "stable job," I'd be a fool to not begin my next statement with "let me explain what makes this job stable."

Another useful skill is to read your recipient's body language. If their facial expressions or body posture are negative in nature, your current method of persuading is falling on deaf ears. If your recipient has wide-open eyes and is leaning towards you in a positive way, continue on your current path—you aren't far from victory.

(Employee names changed and company name withheld for confidentiality)

“Never forget the benefits of empathizing with the person with whom you disagree. If I empathize with you, I understand you. If I understand you, I have the opportunity to persuade you.”

was the most relaxing experience. It would be quite difficult to argue against the validity or relevance of this quote.

As mentioned in last week's article, Bob's staff was quick to disagree with any statement they found to be the least bit controversial. Bob felt disrespected by this behavior and was quick to interrupt his employees during their outbursts. As the employees got louder, Bob got louder. By the end of the meeting, everyone felt so angry and uncomfortable that the solution to the problem became obvious – leave the situation and find a new job.

When we disagree with

down-enabling you to deliver a much more collected and professional response. In addition, never forget the benefits of empathizing with the person with whom you disagree. If I empathize with you, I understand you. If I understand you, I have the opportunity to persuade you.

Clearly, there is much more to the art of persuasion than I can fit into these two articles. My final words of advice are to get “the little things” right. When persuading, use confident words, tones and body language. This confidence shows that you firmly believe in the value of your idea, prod-

Where you can get Beijing Today

Marriott
BEIJING CITY WALL

北京万豪酒店

Largest Marriott Hotel outside the US opens in Beijing

The Beijing Marriott Hotel City Wall, located in the renowned Ming Dynasty City Wall Relics Park, is now open.

With 1,300 rooms, the hotel is equipped with separate bathtubs and standing showers. The spacious rooms are tailor made for business travelers. Guests may enjoy the music for iPods in all suites and on the executive floor. Seven restaurants and bars in the hotel offer a whole new dining experience for guests. The hotel also has various facilities and services including a Quan spa, a fitness center, indoor heated swimming pool and intimated service.

The hotel offers a special opening rate of 900 yuan for a deluxe room until December 31.

Where: Beijing Marriott Hotel City Wall, 7 Jianguomen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng
Tel: 5811 8888

JW MARRIOTT
BEIJING
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Mid-Autumn Festival

The hotel offers two kinds of moon cakes: climate and Zephyr. The climate is priced at 198 yuan, with eight moon cakes in four timeless flavors. The Zephyr is priced at 288 yuan, with six moon cakes in a fusion of traditional and contemporary flavors

Where: JW Marriott Hotel Beijing, 83 Jianguo Lu, China Central Place, Chaoyang
Tel: 5908 8995 or 5908 8510



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北京燕莎中心有限公司

Moon cake season

Moon cakes, lightly glazed with egg yolk and baked to golden perfection, moon cakes are available till September 14 at Dragon Palace and Kempinski Deli.

Where: Kempinski Hotel, Beijing Lufthansa Center, 50 Liangma Lu, Chaoyang
Tel: 6465 3388-4075



Shangri-La's
香格里拉
北京嘉里中心大酒店
Kerry Centre Hotel
BEIJING

offers cakes shaped in the form of the Bird's Nest and Water Cube with Water Cube-shaped cake made from cold cheese, the Bird's Nest-shaped cake is made from strawberry and white

One World One Dream

Inspired by the Olympics, Bento and Berries

chocolate and the five-ringed Olympic-inspired vision is molded from apple, mango, raspberry, blueberry and chocolate mousse.

Where: Kerry Center Hotel, 1 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang
Cost: 450 yuan
Tel: 6561 8833-45

GRAND
MILLENNIUM
BEIJING
北京千禧大酒店

Grand Millennium moon cakes

The hotel offers three kinds of moon cakes for your choice, each with a different meaning. The one with egg yolk and white lotus seed is for a special loved one. The one with red bean paste is for a good neighbor. The green tea one is for an intimate client.

Where: Grand Millennium Beijing, Fortune Plaza, 7 Dong Sanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang
Cost: 318 yuan (per box with six pieces)
Tel: 6530 9383



THE PRESIDENTIAL
BEIJING

Business lunch at Sophia's

Sophia's Italian Restaurant features a business lunch set menu, especially suitable for those who like to enjoy a delightful meal in a relaxed atmosphere, but only have limited time to spend.

Where: The Presidential Beijing, 9 Fuchengmen Wai Dajie, Xicheng
Open: noon - 2:30 pm,
Cost: 118-138 yuan (subject to a 15-percent service charge)
Tel: 5858 5695



(By Li Jing)

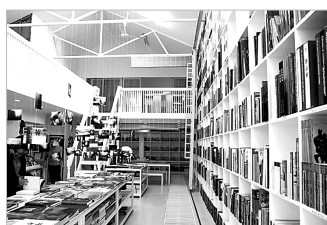
Feel the pulse of 798

By He Jianwei

798 Art District is located in the Dashanzi area, northeast of central Beijing. It is the site of many former state-owned factories including Factory 798, which originally produced electronics.

As early as 2002, artists and cultural organizations began to divide, rent out and re-make the factory spaces, gradually developing them into galleries, art centers, studios, design companies, restaurants and bars.

It became a "Soho-esque" area of international character, replete with "loft living," and has drawn attention from all around. The district brings together contemporary art, architecture and culture with a historically-interesting location and urban lifestyle. It has evolved into a cultural concept and has influenced ideas of urban culture and living space.



Tradition boxed by modernity

By He Jianwei

Finding traditional art in 798 Art District can be quite a challenge, but Cans Bookstore sells books on traditional furniture, seal sculptures and bronzeware amidst its archives of contemporary tomes.

Aside from storing books, the ground floor is used to organize a bimonthly mini-exhibition. This week it is running an exhibit on prints from the Palace Museum in Taipei.

"Most of the mini exhibitions are focused on contemporary art, but we sometimes bring in traditional art," Chang Zhuyan, director of the bookstore, said.

The works are sold in the bookstore after each exhibition.

Sometimes, the owners organize a book fair to promote their selection of art books.

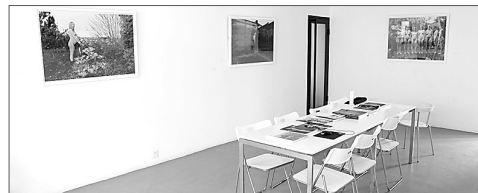
The second floor is a tea house. It has room for 20 customers, and the price per pot ranges from 25 to 50 yuan.

Cans Bookstore

Open: Daily, 10:30 am – 7 pm
Tel: 6435 2584

The Gao Brothers exhibit their works here.

Brothers' art project



The studio of the Gao Brothers'



The roof of the Gao Brothers' exhibition house is a coffee shop

Photos by Rain Tian

By He Jianwei

A two-story glass room lies opposite Jianghu. The sculptures, with exaggerated expressions, attract the stares of passersby.

The room is the Gao Brothers' second space in the 798 Art District, displayed in their Beijing New Art Projects section. Exhibitions are featured in glass displays, and visitors can sit outside the first floor or on the roof to chat and enjoy artistic works.

Gao Zhen and Gao Qiang were born in Shandong Province in 1956 and 1962 respectively. Gao Zhen graduated from Shandong Academy of Arts and Crafts and paints at the Jinan Painting Institute. Gao Qiang graduated from Qufu Normal University and is also a painter, working at the Shandong College of Light Industry. The brothers have worked together since 1985.

The two work with and through many different mediums including painting, sculpting, performing arts and photography. Their art tackles universal themes, such as love and emotional communication, as well as the Chinese experience. This inclination toward domestic issues is, more often than not, characterized by a strong message concerning the country's past and present legacy.

Beijing Gao Brothers Company Art Center

Open: Tuesday-Sunday, 10 am – 7 pm
Tel: 8459 9577



Jin Ri Chon South Korean duck cuisine

By Li Yidan

Located near the entrance of 798 Art District, Jin Ri Chon, an upscale restaurant, offers healthy duck cuisine packed with special flavors that the owners say can help with alcohol detoxification and adult disease.

For Beijingers in love with their local duck, make no mistake, Jin Ri Chon is anything but an imitation.

The restaurant has its own way of cooking the ducks using a series of different ovens. One of the dishes, Whole Duck roasted in a Yellow Mud Pot, features marinated duck meat with herbs baked in a clay-mud pot at 300 C for three hours.

The restaurant also has traditional Korean foods like soybean paste stew and rice with beef and mixed vegetables in a hot pot.

Jin Ri Chon

Open: 10 am – 10 pm
Tel: 6437 9061
Cost: 50-300 yuan per person

Other hot spots

Swiss House

The Swiss House is opened for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games to give domestic and foreign visitors a taste of authentic Swiss food and a chance to experience Swiss culture and customs.

Open: August 1 to August 24,
10 am – 2 am next day
Bar Open: 10 am – 2 am
next day
Restaurant and VIP room
Open: 11 am – 2 am next day
Tel: 5978 9833

Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA)

UCCA is a non-profit, comprehensive art center founded by collectors Guy and Myriam Ullens last year. It presents exhibitions of established and emerging artists and a platform to share knowledge through education and research.

Open: Tuesday-Sunday 10 am
– 7 pm
Tel: 8459 9269

Chinese Art Seasons Gallery

China Art Seasons is the first major Singapore-owned art gallery on the mainland. It aims to promote both Chinese and Southeast Asian contemporary and experimental art.

Open: Tuesday – Sunday
10:30 am – 6:30 pm
Tel: 6431 1900

Cans Bookstore

The second largest bookstore in 798 Art District sells art books related to traditional and contemporary art.

Open: 10:30 am – 7 pm
Tel: 6435 2584

Timezone 8 Art Books Shop

This book store specializes in imported contemporary art, design, photography and architectural books and magazines. It has one of China's most comprehensive selections on contemporary art and culture.

Open: 10 am – 8 pm
Tel: 8456 0336

Beijing Tokyo Art Project

Since its opening six years ago, Beijing Tokyo Art Projects has focused on young, promising Asian artists: Chinese, Japanese, Korean and others.

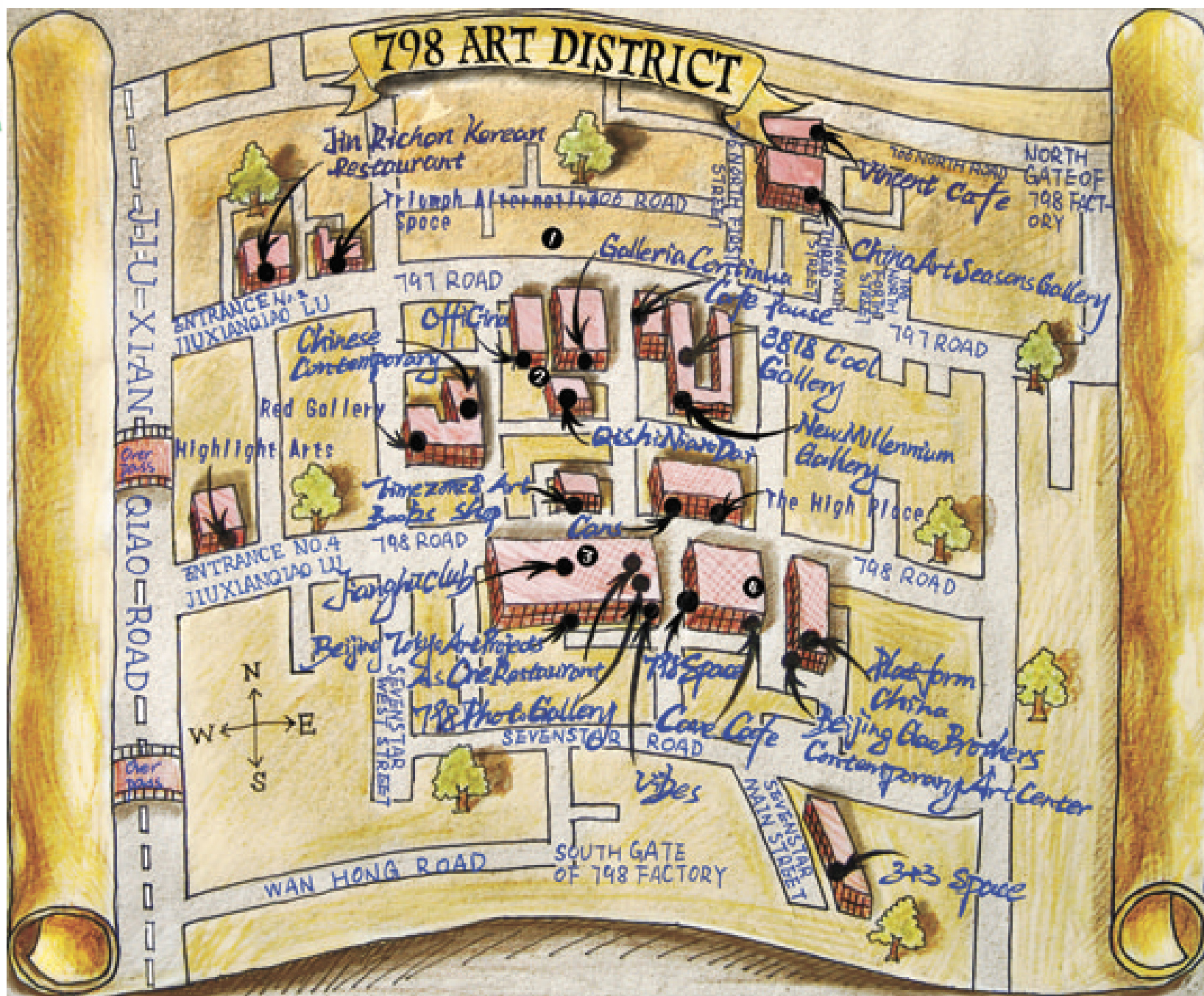
Open: Tuesday – Sunday, 10:30
am – 6:30 pm
Tel: 8457 3245

Tianxiayan Restaurant

798 Art District shares its atmosphere with many nice restaurants and quiet coffee shops. Tianxiayan Restaurant mainly serves Sichuan cuisine. It is located in a silent lane in the district, but attracts many guests every day.

Open: 9 am – 9 pm
Cost: 50 yuan/person
Tel: 6432 3577

(By Jackie Zhang)

**798 Road****③ Ullens Center for Contemporary Art**

Open: Tuesday-Sunday 10 am – 7 pm
Tel: 8459 9269

798 Photo Gallery

The first art gallery dedicated to photography in China.
Open: 10 am – 6 pm
Tel: 6438 1784

798 Space

798 Space is a new avant-garde

and trendy space that hosts high-level cultural, artistic and commercial activities.

Open: 10:30 am – 7:30 pm
Tel: 6437 6248

Beijing Tokyo Art Project

Open: Tuesday-Sunday, 10:30 am – 6:30 pm
Tel: 8457 3245

Cave Cafe

A restaurant with caves. It serves coffee, Italian food and wine.
Open: 10:30 am – 11 pm

Tel: 8456 5520

Cost: 50-100 yuan per person

④ Tianxiayan Restaurant

Open: 9 am – 9 pm
Tel: 6432 3577

Beijing Gao Brother Company Art Center

Open: Tuesday – Sunday, 10 am – 7 pm
Tel: 8459 9577

High Light Arts

Open: Tuesday-Monday 10 am

– 6:30 pm

Tel: 6438 1172

Vibes

The three-story bar provides jazz and Indian music.
Open: 1 pm – 12 pm
Tel: 6437 8082

Platform China

As a multifunctional arts organization, Platform China aims to develop and promote contemporary art.
Open: Tuesday – Sunday, 11 am

– 6 pm

Tel: 6435 7195

① 798 Originality Square**Sevenstar Street****3+3 Space**

3+3 Space, established by the founders of Sanban Studio, promotes art and art-related activities and contributes to the contemporary art scene.
Open: Tuesday - Sunday 10:30 am – 6:30 pm
Tel: 6438 9932

797 Road**Jin Ri Chon Korean Restaurant**

Open: 10 am – 10 pm
Cost: 50-300 yuan
Tel: 6437 9061

Triumph Alternative Space

Open: Tuesday to Sunday, 10 am – 6:30 pm
Tel: 8459 9639

Swiss House

Open: 10 am – 2 am next day
Bar Open: 10 am – 2 am next day
Restaurant and VIP room Open: 11 am – 2 am next day
Tel: 139 1187 3568, 5978 9833

Vincent Cafe

The first cafe that features French Brittany.

Open: 11 am – 12 pm

Cost: 60 yuan

Chinese Art Seasons Gallery
Open: Tuesday – Sunday 10:30 am – 6:30 pm
Tel: 6431 1900

Between 797 and 798 Roads

Galleria Continua
Galleria Continua's new center in Beijing showcases Western contemporary artists in an area where they are still scarcely visible and largely unknown.
Open: Tuesday – Sunday 10:30 am – 6:30 pm
Tel: 6436 1005

3818 Cool Gallery

3818 Cool Gallery has built its reputation on promoting cutting-edge contemporary artists.

Open: Tuesday – Sunday, 10:30 am – 6:30 pm
Tel: 8688 2525

Cafe Pause

Open: 10 am – 9 pm
Tel: 6431 6214

② Paris Beijing Photo Gallery

Open: 11 am – 7 pm in summer, 10 am – 6 pm in winter
Tel: 8459 9263

Qishiniandai Restaurant

A restaurant serving mainly Sichuan food.
Open: Daily, 11 am – 10 pm
Cost: 30 yuan
Tel: 8459 9323

New Millennium Gallery

The gallery is devoted to promoting the local art market, and has

held international art-exchange activities since its founding in 2000.

Open: Tuesday – Sunday 10:30 am – 6:30 pm
Tel: 6432 4122

Chinese Contemporary

It features an exhibition program showing a complete spectrum of media from paintings and photos to performances, ink on paper and videos.
Open: Daily, 11 am – 7 pm
Tel: 8456 2421

Officina

Established in 2002 and active between Europe and China, Officina is an Italian cultural exchange center and exhibit area.
Open: Tuesday – Sunday, 10:30

am – 7 pm
Tel: 6436 1191

Red Gallery

Open: 10 am – 6 pm
Tel: 139 0113 3617

Cans Bookstore

Open: Daily, 10:30 am – 7 pm
Tel: 6435 2584

Timezone 8 Art Books Shop

Open: 10 am – 8 pm
Tel: 8456 0336

The High Place – Coffee on the roof

A cafe run by the Gao Brothers.
Open: 10:30 am – 8:30 pm
Tel: 8459 9577

(By Jackie Zhang)